Belmonte, Moreno: Laarni liable for plunder

STORY ON PAGE A3

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GMA stops military operations vs MILF

BY ARMAND NOCUM

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday ordered a suspension of military operations against the 12,000-member Moro Islamic Liberation Front to entice MILF separatist rebels back to the negotiating table.

Ms Macapagal, however, rejected a

GMA STOPS/ A13

Oil tariff restored; Caltex hikes prices

THE GOVERNMENT restored the 3-percent tariff on imported crude and refined petroleum products on Feb. 8, prompting Caltex Philippines Inc. to raise its fuel prices by 5 centavos per liter.

Industry rivals Petron Corp. and Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. have yet to follow suit.

The previous administration lifted the 3-per-

OIL/ A4

GMA warned AFP chief derby 'destructive'

BY JULIET L. JAVELLANA, CARLITO PABLO AND ARMAND N. NOCUM

TO end the "destructive and divisive" jockeying of military factions for the post of the next Armed Forces chief of staff, President Macapagal-Arroyo was urged yesterday to name her choice ahead of the March 17 retirement of the incumbent, Gen. Angelo Reyes.

The call was aired by Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, who warned that the intense jockeying for the post was causing institutional damage to the military and derailing not only its overall effectiveness but also its efforts to enforce peace and order in Mindanao.

"The highly charged political rivalry among the contenders for the position . . . has already included lobbying for support from politicians, mud-slinging … and the fractious mobilization of support from the ranks," said Biazon, chair of the Senate committee on national defense and a former AFP chief of staff.

"Most seriously, a prolonged contest among the contenders and the manner by which their individual interests are being pursued politically can only cause institutional damage to the AFP," he said.

In Malacañang, the President told reporters that she would announce Reyes' replacement a few days before he officially retires.

Asked what would be her top standard for her choice, she said she was "looking for somebody who can unite the Armed Forces behind the Constitution."

GMA WARNED/ A13

Nat'l security post to Golez, DOH to Dayrit

BY DONNA S. CUETO AND MARTIN P. MARFIL

PARAÑAQUE Rep. Roilo Golez, who failed to make it to the senatorial ticket of the People Power Coalition, has been appointed national security adviser.

"Oh, he knows national security very well," President Macapagal-Arroyo told reporters yesterday at a press conference. She said that "although Golez has been a civilian for a very long time, which is very welcome, he is a (graduate of the US Naval Academy) in Annapolis."

Golez, a former postmaster general, chaired the House committees on public order and safety and on national security for three consecutive terms.

He takes the post that the President earlier gave to and then recalled from retired Gen. Lisandro Abadia.

The appointment of Abadia as national security adviser was the subject of intense criticism from various sectors because of his involvement in the military pension fund scam.

NAT'L/ A13

Estrada lawyer: 2 presidents possible

Precedent cited: Quezon, Laurel during WW II

THERE is a precedent for two Philippine presidents.

Lawyers of ousted President Joseph Estrada have come up with this novel argument in a bid to keep him out of jail without having to unseat President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Lawyer Pacifico Agabin yesterday filed with the Supreme Court a petition saying that Estrada would remain as "President on leave" until his term expired in 2004.

Agabin's petition, which claims there is precedent for two Philippine presidents, appears aimed at ensuring Estrada will continue to enjoy immunity from prosecution while acknowledging there's little chance of unseating his successor, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

At the same time, Agabin, former dean of the UP College of Law, asked the high court to stop all criminal investigations or the filing of any case against Estrada in the Sandiganbayan.

Estrada, under investigation for alleged large-scale corruption, earlier Tuesday won a 30-day reprieve from possible arrest while the Supreme Court studied his claim to the presidency.

The court also barred prosecutors and officials from filing corruption and other charges

ESTRADA/ A4

PANININDI
FRA
VILLAR

WANNA BETS: Bumpy ride on the campaign trail in Tulaok, San Simon, Pampanga for People Power Coalition senatorial candidates, from left Tañada (partly hidden), Flavier, Pagdanganan, Herrera, Monsod, Joker Arroyo, Magsaysay and Pangilinan.
ERIK ARAZAS

7 PAOCTF agents summoned by NBI on Dacer abduction

BY MICHAEL UBAC

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation has invited seven members of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF) for questioning to shed light on the Nov. 24 abduction of public relations practitioner Salvador "Bubby" Dacer.

7 PAOCTF/ A13

Nation fetes 'mother' of Edsa II

THE CRY of the Nation: Transformation and Justice *(Sigaw ng Bayan: Pagbabago at Katarungan)* is the theme of the 15th anniversary of the "mother" of People Power II, the first People Power Revolt from Feb. 22 to 25, 1986.

A recognition etched in granite to the millions of "Unnamed Filipinos" who made possible People Power I and II will be unveiled on Sunday, Feb. 25.

A bronze sculpture to commemorate People Power II will be ready by August to hang on the left side of the Edsa Shrine of Peace.

President Macapagal-Arroyo will kick off the nationwide observance of Edsa People Power '86 in a big rally at the Davao Centennial Plaza on Feb. 22 and will be at the other official activities in Metro Manila on Feb. 24 and 25.

The icons of People Power, Jaime Cardinal Sin and former Presidents Cory Aquino and Fidel V. Ramos, will lead the Filipinos in celebrating what People Power means to the nation and to the world.

Edsa People Power '86 resulted in the toppling of the Marcos dictatorship and the assumption into the presidency of Cory Aquino, the widow of slain Opposition leader, Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino.

Fifteen years later, People Power II saw the assumption into the presidency of another woman, Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, the constitutional successor to deposed President Joseph Estrada.

NATION/ A4

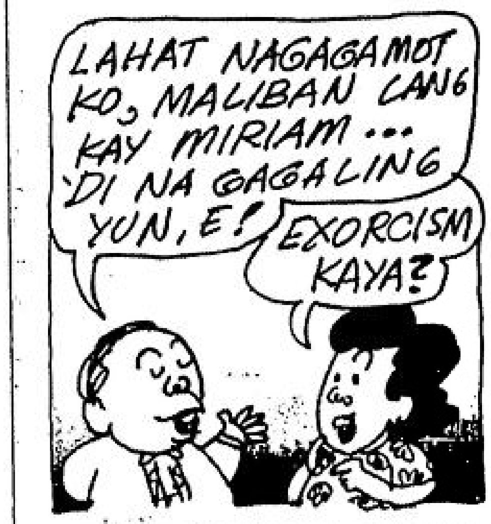
Dr. Flavier Rx: Miriam incurable

SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga—Sen. Juan Flavier prides himself as the only medical doctor elected to the Senate in the past 50 years.

He also prides himself as a doctor able to cure his colleagues whenever they feel under the weather.

"*Lahat ng sakit ng mga kasama ko, kaya kong gamutin* (All the ailments of my colleagues, I can cure)," Flavier told provincial correspondents here during a news conference of the People Power Coalition candidates yesterday.

DR. FLAVIER/ A4


LAHAT NAGAGAMOT KO, MALIBAN LANG KAY MIRIAM ... 'DI NA GAGALING YUN, E!
EXORCISM KAYA?

JOAN BONDOC

THE SMILE of the President before being asked to respond to the Feb. 19 Time Magazine's article by deposed President Estrada who claimed that "mob rule catapulted" Ms Macapagal to the presidency.

ONE MONTH

Erap Time article turns off Gloria

BY DONNA S. CUETO

ASK her anything, but not about the views of ousted President Joseph Estrada.

President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday openly expressed irritation over a question about Estrada's warning that she would suffer the same fate as he did in People Power II.

Ms Macapagal lost her smile and her face turned sour even before a radio reporter could finish asking the question at a press conference in Malacañang.

The President then turned her face away from the reporter.

"Ma'am, over the weekend, deposed President Estrada said he would not pose a threat to your government but he warned that you might suffer the same fate if mob rule was allowed to decide the country's leadership," said Elmar Acol of Bombo Radyo.

The President immediately cut him, saying "If I were to plunder the economy, I would deserve the same fate."

From the way she looked, she discouraged a follow-up query.

The Bombo Radyo reporter was

ERAP/ A13

Second FRONT PAGE

NAKU, DAPAT MAAYOS YAN!

POLITICAL PRISONERS

Joma wants 250-for-2 swap

BY ANDREA T. ECHAVEZ
AND ALCUIN PAPA

REFUSING to be mollified by the government's announcement that it would release 49 political prisoners, militant groups yesterday insisted that all 250 political prisoners be freed, vowing to continue protest actions until they get what they want.

From the Netherlands, exiled communist leader Jose Ma. Sison said that all political prisoners must be released before the communists would consider freeing two security officers abducted separately in 1999 and resuming the stalled peace talks.

"The release of [the] 49 is not enough, the tially releasing 77, then proceed with the processing of the remaining political prisoners," said Marie Hilao-Enriquez, Karapatan secretary general.

The President earlier approved the conditional release or pardon of 49 captured Moro separatists and communist insurgents to pave the way for a resumption of peace talks with both groups.

Yesterday, she also declared a ceasefire with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and is considering a similar action for the communist rebels. *(See related story on Page 1)*

The Bagong Alyansang Makabayan and Bayan Muna challenged the President to show her sincerity by releasing the first batch of prisoners today.

"President (Macapagal) should match her statement with concrete actions. She should stop playing the issue and gain mileage for political propaganda," said Bayan Muna president Satur Ocampo.

Ocampo, himself an ex-political detainee and former spokesperson of the communist-led National Democratic Front said he sensed the "direct hand of a militarist clique" inside the Macapagal administration and the United States for the delay.

Bayan and Karapatan said they would picket the US Embassy today to protest the alleged US intervention in the release of two prisoners convicted for the killing of Col. James Rowe, US military coordinator in the Philippines in 1991.

Dani Beltran, secretary general of the Ecumenical Movement for Justice and Peace (EMJP) said that while human rights groups welcome the impending release of the 49, it was "a far cry" from their initial demand for the unconditional release of all political prisoners.

"When we asked for goodwill from the new government, we expect it to be in full...we will never be satisfied with this piecemeal approach in releasing political prisoners," Beltran said.

Sison, in a statement e-mailed to the INQUIRER, said that if all political prisoners are immediately released, the NDF would reciprocate by releasing Maj. Noel Buan and Insp. Abelardo Martin who have been held by the New People's Army for more than two years now.

Only after the exchange of prisoners is complete can the two sides meet to prepare for the resumption of the peace negotiations, he said.

Sison, who lives in exile in Utrecht, the Netherlands, also said the talks should be held in a "neutral venue abroad."

"This is mutually convenient and safe, does not involve the deployment of large forces by the opposing armies for the security of the negotiating panels and is more economical in terms of time and resources," wrote Sison.

In the course of the peace negotiations, some of the NDF negotiators and consultants who are based abroad may, according to Sison, come to the Philippines from time to time for "consultations."

Sison also stressed that the resumption of the peace negotiations should mean that the government would have to recognize and revive all previous agreements.

Human rights groups had been protesting what they described as Malacañang's "sabotage operations" on the issue of the political prisoners' release.

They said the political prisoners should have been released as soon as the different government agencies had cleared their records and recommended their release almost a month ago.

"Either Executive Secretary (Renato) de Villa is genuinely incompetent by failing to understand that the local courts are under the Department of Justice, or he has other things planned when he harped on the 'processing of papers' as the cause of delay of the prisoners' release," Enriquez said.

The EMJP also questioned the continued detention of Leoncio Pitao or Kumander Parago, saying Pitao "is a textbook example of a political prisoner.

"If Malacañang is sincere in showing that there is no political repression, then Pitao should be released immediately," Beltran said.

Political detainees to go on hunger strike

DAVAO CITY—Fifty-six political prisoners in Southern Mindanao said they will join the hunger strike of detainees nationwide starting tomorrow.

In a statement, the detainees said they were "disappointed and angered" by President Macapagal-Arroyo's failure to sign the release papers of the detainees despite positive recommendation made by the Department of Justice (DOJ) three weeks ago.

The detainees said they will continue their hunger strike until President Macapagal listens to their plea that the 77 political prisoners are freed.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez on Jan. 29 announced that he recommended to Malacañang the release of 77 political detainees nationwide following a review conducted by the Department of National Defense (DND) and the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG).

In Butuan City, former PNP chief Gen. Panfilo Lacson said President Macapagal should reexamine individually the political detainees and think about their release's effect to the victims.

"What if one of those political detainees had killed 100 people, what would happen to the victims' relatives?," Lacson asked.

He said while it is a good gesture for confidence building, the government should not only give "pleasure" to the National Democratic Front but also give justice to the victims.

Joel Virador, Karapatan-Southern Mindanao secretary general, said they believe that retired generals in the Macapagal Cabinet, led by Executive Secretary Renato de Villa, are blocking the detainees' release.

"De Villa will reportedly use the detainees as bargaining chips when talks between the government and the National Democratic Front (NDF) and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) guerrillas resumes," he said. *Jowel F. Canuday and Alden Pantaleon, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Lina bows to CA on 135 cadets

THE NEW leadership of the Department of Interior and Local Government will not challenge the Court of Appeals order reinstating 135 police cadets who were dismissed from schooling last year in connection with a still unsolved hazing incident that claimed a plebe's life.

Interior Secretary Joey Lina bowed to CA's Feb. 9 ruling ordering the readmission of the upper-class cadets earlier kicked out of the Philippine National Police Academy in Silang, Cavite, for their perceived "code of silence" regarding the May 15, 2000 death of freshman Dominante Tunac.

While describing the ruling as a "temporary setback" in the department's campaign against hazing, Lina said "it would be better, and even moot and academic, to fight back legally."

"It's better to start anew," he said.

The dismissed cadets were represented in the courts by Frank Chavez, who served as solicitor general during the Aquino administration. Chavez mainly argued that the DILG under then Secretary Alfredo Lim denied his clients due process when it dismissed them en masse.

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Laarni also liable for plunder, say solons

BY MARTIN MARFIL
AND MICHAEL LIM UBAC

FORMER movie starlet Laarni Enriquez could be included in the economic plunder case against deposed President Joseph Estrada as she may have been used to conceal Estrada's unexplained wealth, according to two former members of the House impeachment team.

Speaker Feliciano Belmonte and Rep. Oscar Moreno were reacting to Ombudsman Aniano Desierto's disclosure the other day that Enriquez, one of the mistresses of Estrada, had P650 million in two accounts with the Philippine Savings Bank.

But yesterday, Desierto said both savings and current accounts were now empty, having been closed on Dec. 1, 2000.

The fact that Enriquez is not related in a legal way to Estrada is no impediment to running after her, said Belmonte who headed the prosecutors' team.

"Under the Anti-Graft Law, the money can be in the name of the public official or it could be in the names of relatives or it could be in the name of other persons," Belmonte said.

Moreno, another House prosecutor, said the money discovered in Enriquez's bank account could form part of the plunder case, as it was "accumulation of wealth in collaboration with others."

A third party can be prosecuted if it can be proven that she or he was used "to hide the unexplained wealth . . . of former President Estrada," Belmonte said.

Also yesterday, Sen. Franklin Drilon said the government should act fast in filing a forfeiture case against Enriquez and freezing Enriquez's bank accounts.

"The government must act fast and proceed on the forfeiture of these properties so there could be some attachments," Drilon told the weekly Bulong Pulungan Forum at the Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel.

The PSBank accounts were uncovered after PSBank officials turned over Enriquez's bank statements to the Ombudsman's Office last Monday.

Bank records showed that Enriquez deposited a total of P650 million into her account within a period of one year.

Yesterday, Desierto decided to expand the scope of the Ombudsman's investigation into the alleged ill-gotten wealth of Estrada after Moreno disclosed that Estrada might have transferred funds from his bank accounts to various stockbrokerage firms.

Desierto said he has ordered his people to go after banks, investment houses and top business conglomerates that may have been used by Estrada to prevent the Ombudsman from tracing his wealth.

Belmonte said Enriquez would have to prove where she got the money, who gave it to her, how she got it, why it was given to her and if she had paid taxes for it.

Enriquez would also have to explain the dramatic improvement in her finances, he said.

"The mere fact that Laarni was the recipient of the mansions . . . or a gift of a certain necklace, (indicate) that the (former) President was giving her money directly or indirectly—either coming from him or coming from his cronies," he said.

According to Moreno, the P650-million Enriquez PSBank account was different from the one the prosecutors discovered during the impeachment trial.

"This is a different account. The first account was opened much earlier, in July 1996 and closed on Dec. 1, 2000. The account with the P650 million was opened in 1999," he said.

According to Moreno, it was in the first account at the PSBank Murphy branch, where the P1.2-million check issued by Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson on Dec. 23, 1999 ended up.

According to Belmonte, Estrada had, in a "shakedown," asked 10 of his friends, Singson among them, to contribute P1 million each to pay for a necklace that he gave Enriquez for Christmas.

Mystery homecoming probed

MUCH like her hasty departure for the United States last month, Laarni Enriquez's stealthy return to the country on Sunday night was again attended by controversy.

Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo asked Naia general manager Edgar Manda to cancel the airport passes of police officers and others identified with deposed President Joseph Estrada after it was found that Enriquez managed to slip into the country without having to undergo the usual airport procedures.

Domingo said Enriquez was able to avoid going through the immigration counter with the help of a police officer who used to be Estrada's Naia contact.

The police officer, identified only as "DJ," fetched Enriquez at the mouth of the plane tube, Domingo said.

The immigration commissioner said this would explain why Enriquez's name was not encoded on the computerized arrival files of the Naia immigration office. She said she was only able to confirm Enriquez's arrival from the manifest of the Continental Airlines flight from Guam which arrived in Manila at 9:35 p.m. last Sunday.

Domingo has given instructions to "sanitize" the immigration areas at the airport by declaring them off-limits to all non-immigration personnel.

TJ Burgonio and Gerald Lacuarta

Abus say they tortured Schilling

ZAMBOANGA CITY—A Muslim rebel group said yesterday they tortured an ailing US hostage in retaliation for US and British air strikes on Iraq.

"We will torture him more if they continue to attack other Muslims," said Abu Sabaya, the leader of the Abu Sayyaf guerrillas holding US citizen Jeffrey Schilling hostage in Basilan.

He told Radio Mindanao Network on Tuesday that the torture was in retaliation for US and British strikes on long-range radar on Friday that they say Iraq used to target allied planes patrolling no-fly zones.

Sabaya has threatened several times to kill 25-year-old Oakland resident, captive since last August, unless the group receives a $10 million ransom.

He has also said Schilling is very ill, losing weight and coughing blood.

Some local military officials, however, doubt that Schilling is a hostage and say he may sympathize with the Abu Sayyaf who are fighting to carve a separate homeland out of Mindanao.

Schilling, a Muslim convert, was taken by the rebels after he visited their camp in Jolo on Aug. 31. Schilling was accompanied by girlfriend Ivy Osani, Sabaya's cousin. Osani was allowed to go after the rebels seized Schilling. *AP*

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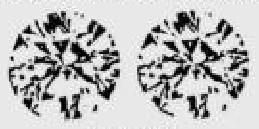

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Estrada lawyer: 2 presidents possible

(From page A1)

against Estrada. The tribunal warned them that they could face contempt of court charges if they commented on the cases.

Estrada has asked the court to determine the legitimacy of Vice President Macapagal's assumption of the presidency. Both sides, which presented oral arguments last week, have been asked by the court to present a summary of their cases this week.

In a press statement, Agabin said Estrada recognized Ms Macapagal as acting president and considered as legitimate all "duties and functions so far performed by her."

At the height of Edsa People Power II on Jan. 20, Chief Justice Hilario Davide swore in Ms Macapagal as Estrada was packing to leave Malacañang for his private residence on Polk Street, Greenhills, San Juan.

"President Estrada, however, is still the President on leave and will continue to be such until his term expires," Agabin said.

According to him, the Constitution allows the existence of two presidents, with one in an acting capacity, like Ms Macapagal.

He cited a similar case when Manuel Quezon was regarded President-in-exile in the United States while Jose P. Laurel served as acting President during the Japanese occupation in World War II.

Agabin pointed out that Estrada sent a notice to Congress about his plan to go on leave "for the sake of peace."

Agabin insisted Estrada never had any intention to resign.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez, who represents Ms Macapagal, has told the court that Estrada could no longer govern after top military and police officers withdrew support from him on Jan. 19, followed by the resignation of many Cabinet members.

Perez said Estrada's decision to leave the Palace was effectively a resignation.

Resolution

In a resolution issued Tuesday, however, the 15-member tribunal made it clear that "no cases will be filed" against Estrada as it deliberates on his petitions during the one-month period.

Estrada, who was due to have been indicted next week, welcomed the court ruling. His son Jose Victor "JV" Ejercito quoted his father as saying: "The justice system finally worked."

He told reporters that his father was pleased with the developments.

"At last, even briefly, the politicking of the Ombudsman has halted and so has the relentless persecution against our family."

According to Ejercito, his father is now hoping to build on the preliminary rulings to get the court to recognize him as the legitimate President and ultimately give him legal immunity from prosecution that is given to incumbent presidents.

Perez said that the court-imposed delays had postponed the freezing and seizure of Estrada's alleged assets, most of which the former President denies owning.

But Ms Macapagal's chief of staff, Renato Corona, insisted the ruling was "not a setback."

He added: "People should not really be talking about the merits of the case."

Perez said the government would abide by the court ruling.

But he suggested that the government was still free to give the press "copies of the charges we are going to file" against Estrada.

Ombudsman Aniano Desierto announced on Monday that Estrada was due to be indicted next week on charges of plunder, graft and related charges.

Plunder is punishable by death and those charged with the crime cannot apply for bail.

Saguisag

But Rene Saguisag, another lawyer for Estrada, has argued that his client could only be tried in the Sandiganbayan only after the Supreme Court has made an adverse ruling on his petitions.

Saguisag has said Estrada never signed a resignation letter and abandoned the Palace only to avoid bloodshed as thousands threatened to storm Malacañang.

"If you leave a place where you'll be killed, that's not resignation, that's prudence," Saguisag said.

Agabin also cited the nearly 11 million votes Estrada got during the 1998 presidential election, when the former film star recorded one of the largest margins in recent memory on a pro-poor platform.

Estrada reiterated Tuesday he did not plan to turn his back on that mandate.

"I haven't thought of resigning because I was elected by the people and I can never abandon them at any time," Estrada said in a radio interview.

Both sides now have two days to respond to each other's arguments before the court starts deliberations.

The House of Representatives impeached him in November and sent the case to the trial in the Senate on charges that he took bribes from illegal gambling bosses and stole government funds.

But the trial was adjourned without a verdict last month when his Senate allies suppressed key bank evidence, sparking Edsa People Power II that led to his downfall.

Prosecutors claim that Estrada amassed at least P20 billion in his 30 months in office, even though his salary was only about P50,000 a month.

Senators who served as judges in the impeachment trial revealed last week that a P3.2-billion account allegedly held by Estrada under a false name was cleaned out on the same day that he was impeached by the House of Representatives.

Estrada has denied any wrongdoing but told The Associated Press in an interview last week that he was ready to go to jail while defending himself. *Reports from Rocky Nazareno, AP and AFP*

Oil tariff restored . . .

(From page A1)

cent tariff on Nov. 8 to temper oil price and transport fare increases at that time.

The move was criticized as part of efforts by then President Joseph Estrada to shore up public support amid calls for his resignation over allegations that he had received millions of pesos in "jueteng" payoffs and tax kickbacks.

The three-month suspension of the tariff had cut fuel prices by 30 centavos per liter but cost the government about P1.2 billion, according to the Department of Energy.

Caltex told its dealers last week to increase pump prices by not more than 5 centavos per liter to cover the 30-centavo tariff on every liter of imported crude and refined fuel products.

"We were advised by the Caltex main office to increase our pump prices of unleaded gasoline, diesel and kerosene by a maximum of 5 centavos per liter," a Caltex service station owner in Parañaque told the INQUIRER yesterday.

"But we could not implement it because our competitor service stations are not adjusting their fuel prices. We are absorbing the additional costs," the gas station owner said.

Reynaldo Gamboa, Pilipinas Shell vice president, said the company was not raising prices just yet as it was still observing price trends on the international market.

"We have not decided to increase our fuel prices because we are still observing the 20-day period, which determines the average price for the month," said Antonio Pelayo, Petron Corp. corporate communications manager.

Pelayo said the brewing conflict in Iraq could have a significant impact on world crude prices. American and British planes bombed radar facilities in Baghdad last week.

Oil companies base their price adjustments on the preceding month's average crude price and peso-dollar rate because the purchases of oil refiners are dollar-denominated.

Caltex, the country's third largest refiner, said it was still losing 44 centavos per liter.

The company claims to have posted P3 billion in losses by the end of December because of its huge exposure to dollar-denominated debts.

Caltex country chair Nicholas Florio said the re-imposition of the tariff would translate to additional costs for oil firms.

Oil companies in the country were poised to raise prices by 73 centavos per liter last November.

But the increase was reduced to 44 centavos after the government lifted the 3-percent tariff.

But after that the prices of Dubai crude and imported refined petroleum products went down.

On Jan. 8, Petron, Shell and Caltex cut gasoline prices by 60 centavos per liter and diesel and kerosene by 50 centavos.

Had the prices of Dubai crude and imported refined petroleum products continued to decline, a second round of fuel price reduction would have been implemented in the last week of January.

But crude prices began rising again after the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) decided to cut its production by another 1.5 million barrels a day.

As of Feb. 19, the price of Dubai crude, the country's benchmark, was $25.35 a barrel.

Since the beginning of the year, the price of gasoline from Singapore has risen by more than 22 percent and that of diesel by 10 percent.

As for the exchange rate, the peso strengthened to P48.303 against the dollar on Feb. 19 after depreciating to P50.93 in January. The rate was P49.92 in December. *Christine Gaylican*

Nation fetes 'mother' of Edsa II

(From page A1)

In support of President Macapagal's call for austerity and meaningful change, the Edsa People Power Commission (EPPC) chaired by Finance Secretary Alberto Romulo, has done away with lavish rites.

The EPPC will instead focus on encouraging the various sectors to foster transformative values for themselves, identifying what they expect of the new politics of "transparency and leadership by example" and supporting a government that would be responsive to their needs.

Highlight

Another highlight of the People Power fest on Sunday will be the launching of the "International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World" at the Edsa Shrine.

The initiative came from the president of the Nobel Laureates Foundation, Frenchman Pierre Merchand, founder of the pro-children organization, "Partage evec les Enfants du Monde."

He singled out the Philippines for the project's launch site based on the non-violent culture of the Filipinos and their love for peace as evidenced by the Edsa People Power.

The United Nations General Assembly adopted during its 53rd General Assembly Merchand's initiative for the decade (2001-2010) to be dedicated to the children of the world.

Merchand himself will be at Edsa for the launching and to turn over the declaration to Cory Aquino and to Chris Carrion and Jose de Jesus of the Spirit of Edsa Foundation.

The foundation, made up of all the Nobel Peace Prize awardees and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) works against two of the major causes of children's problems—war and violence.

True heroes

Yesterday, Sin started paying tribute to the Unnamed Filipinos during his acceptance speech at the Ateneo de Manila University, which gave him and Aquino the "Parangal ng Ateneo" and "Tanglaw ng Bayan Awards."

"On Sunday, we will unveil at the Edsa Shrine a marker for the Unnamed Filipino. In the same vein, I dedicate this parangal to the Unnamed Filipino who fought hard to restore freedom, justice, righteousness and peace to our land," Sin said.

"I share this honor with them. They are the true heroes of People Power I and II," he added.

A portion of the marker reads: "Henceforth all generations to come shall call this historic event as the Second People Power Revolution. To the Unnamed Filipinos, whose love of God and country made that historic event possible, this hallowed spot is gratefully dedicated."

The marker, which measures 166 cm by 250 cm, is set at the foot of what served as the speakers' stage in front of the Edsa Shrine during the protest vigil that forced Estrada out of power on Jan. 20.

Msgr. Socrates Villegas, rector of the Edsa Shrine and spokesperson of Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin, said the bronze relief will be made by sculptor Peter De Guzman and possibly finished by August.

De Guzman is also the sculptor of the Ninoy Aquino statue in Makati.

"It would be hung on one side of the chapel. While on the other side we commemorate People Power I with the Alano mural, we commemorate People Power II with this bronze relief," Villegas told the INQUIRER.

At the Ateneo, the influential prelate also conveyed his gratitude to God for the twin miracles of the peaceful revolutions.

"But lest we forget, to God belongs all the honor and glory. He is the true awardee. He is the real light of the world. *Ang tunay na tanglaw ng bayan!*" Sin said. (The real light of the nation.)

Sin and Aquino were bestowed the awards for their role in bringing back morality to public office in the country.

It was the first time that the Jesuit schools of the country come together to bestow a special award on anybody.

Through the intercession of Sin, the Edsa Shrine has received a singular spiritual honor from Pope John Paul II.

The Catholic faithful who will go to Mass and receive communion at the Shrine on any First Saturday of the month will get the graces of a Plenary Indulgence for a departed soul. This spiritual favor was granted to all Shrine-goers in recognition of their non-violent role in upholding peace and justice.

Calendar of events

- Feb, 24: Traditional wreath-laying ceremonies by Ms Macapagal at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, the designated Military-PNP and Religious Day.
- 7 p.m: The Edsa Shrine community will host a Mass at 7 p.m. to be followed by a Marian procession and a barrio fiesta at the Shrine and the launching of the youth-based Laya Movement around the country where all-night live bands and other musical presentations will entertain audiences.
- Feb. 25: In the morning, President Macapagal will deliver a speech at flag-raising rites at the People Power Monument on Edsa. Expected to assist her are Cardinal Sin, former Presidents Aquino and EPPC chair Romulo and vice chair Ramon del Rosario Jr.
- Ms Macapagal will also light the freedom flame from the torch borne by running priest, Fr. Roberto Reyes, who will run with the youth from the Ninoy Aquino monument in Makati.
- The President will also present the trophies and citation of the Freedom and Peace Awardees for Edsa II, and will unveil the marker for unnamed Edsa heroes with Cardinal Sin.
- 4:30 p.m.: Cardinal Sin will say Mass; President Macapagal will address the nation.
- A cultural presentation and fireworks end the day at the People Power Monument. *With a report from Norman Bordadora*

Dr. Flavier Rx: Miriam incurable

(From page A1)

When asked in jest why Flavier had apparently failed to cure the "condition" of Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, another re-electionist running on the slate of the opposition coalition, Puwersa ng Masa, the diminutive senator quipped that she was "incurable."

"You know, in medicine, we have what we call incurable," Flavier said in Filipino to the boisterous laughter of the audience.

Nasty rumors about Santiago's psychological condition surfaced after then President Corazon Aquino appointed her secretary of the Department of Agrarian Reform.

Her reported condition was allegedly one of the unofficial reasons why her nomination was rejected by the Commission on Appointments.

Aside from his sense of humor, Flavier said he could get reelected on the basis of his perfect attendance in the Senate.

He reminded the reporters that his presence in the 10th and 11th Congresses could not be ignored as he often helped make a quorum during Senate committee hearings.

Senate rules require the presence of the committee chair and one member to constitute a quorum in hearings.

"Committee chairs often call on me so we can form a quorum in their meetings. I've been doing this for the past five years. So you see, my fellowmen, if I am not reelected, the Senate will collapse," he said.

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$2 trillion in fake bonds seized

POLICE yesterday said they have seized more than $2 trillion in falsified US Federal Reserve bonds in Cagayan de Oro City which may have been intended for a "lost treasure" scam.

Police also showed reporters stacks of counterfeit Japanese yen and Argentine peso notes in various denominations, a few fake one-dollar bills and some other currencies that were seized Saturday along with the large-denomination bonds.

A joint team from the local police, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and the US Embassy arrested a suspect with the falsified currencies and US bonds along with German and Argentine bonds with a total value of $2,157,044,400,000. They are believed to have busted the world's biggest counterfeiting syndicate.

US Treasury Department representative David Popp told a news conference at Camp Crame that the fakes were of "very good quality" but that some of the bond denominations do not exist.

The US bonds, totaling more than $2 trillion, were in denominations ranging from tens of thousands of dollars to $500 million while the bonds of other countries were in denominations as small as $30.

"Lost treasure"

Popp said the large bonds may have been meant for a major "lost treasure" scam.

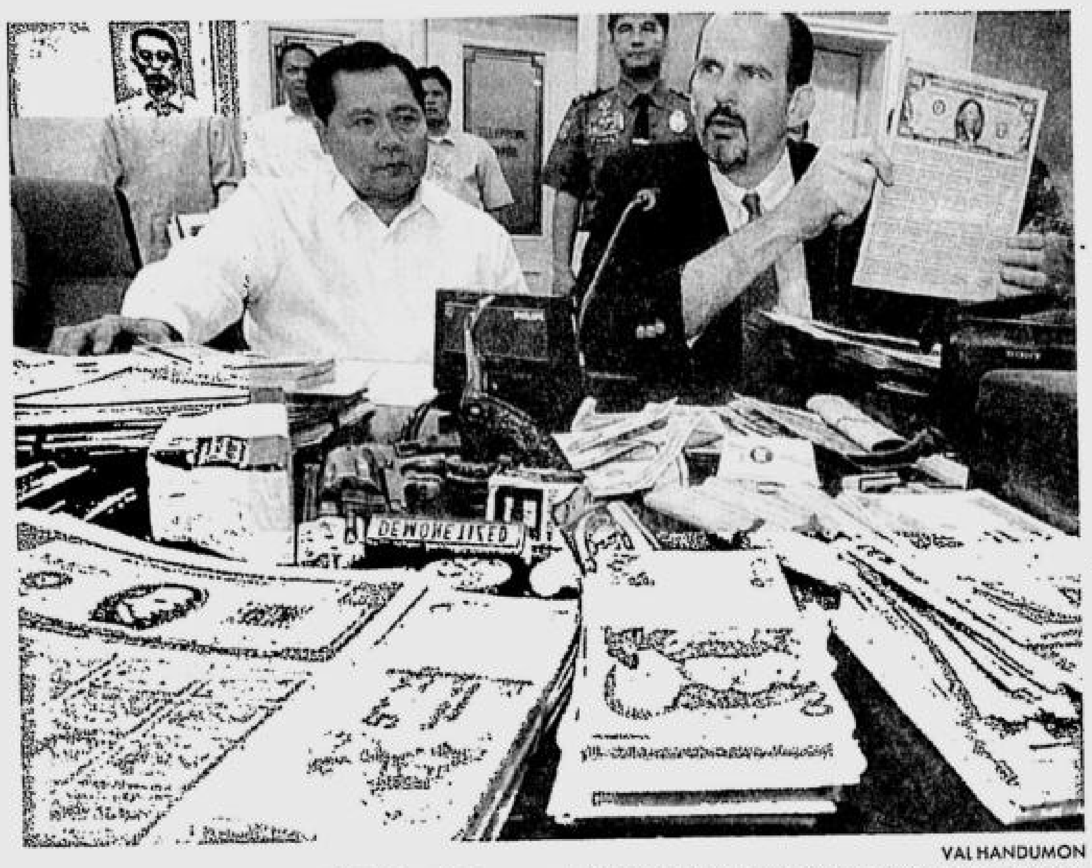
"Very frequently these fraudsters weave a tale that there's these long-lost Federal Reserve bonds hidden away or found in a plane crash," Popp said.

Police Superintendent Nestor Gualberto said the raid on the house also found two metal boxes from the US Federal Reserve.

He said police charged Archie Mingoc with counterfeiting and were seeking five others. He said some of the bonds had been sold in Mindanao and that police were trying to discover whether others were smuggled out of the country.

"We know they were selling some bonds to very curious buyers—businessmen in the area," Gualberto said. "We're still ascertaining where they're coming from."

He said one man identified as Renato Waban, alias Charlie Waban, escaped from the house during the raid and police seized a firearm belonging to another.



VAL HANDUMON

US Treasury Department official David Popp and PNP Chief Deputy Director General Leandro Mendoza present to the media the $2 trillion worth of counterfeit US Federal Reserve bonds.

Recovered from the house of Waban on No. 79 Lawisbra, Agora Road, Cagayan de Oro were counterfeit bonds worth $1.383 trillion. Seized from Mingoc's house were fake bonds worth $773.7 billion.

The raiders were armed with a search warrant issued by Judge Noli Catli of the Misamis Oriental executive branch 25 of the regional trial court.

Thirteen months ago, police and BSP agents seized more than $60 billion in fake US bills, treasury notes and bonds in raids in Cagayan de Oro.

Police said at the time that the items were of "good quality" but were found to be fake by central bank experts. They were apparently being smuggled out of Mindanao for sale in undetermined foreign countries.

A month earlier, more than $50 billion in fake US dollars and treasury notes, along with Japanese "liberty bonds," were seized in Malaybalay City in Bukidnon. *AP with a report from Dave Veridiano*

US solon here, vows passage of RP vets' bill

By Jennie L. Ilustre

NOTING that the climate in Washington has improved, a visiting American lawmaker yesterday predicted the passage of a bill granting pension and health care to Filipino World War II veterans in the US and in the Philippines with non-service (not war-related) ailments.

Democratic Congressman Bob Filner, who arrived in Manila last night, told the INQUIRER that he has re-filed The Filipino Veterans Equity Act on Feb. 7, with Republican Congressman Benjamin Gilman as principal sponsor or author.

During his three-day visit, Filner will call on President Macapagal-Arroyo and meet with congressional and veterans leaders, including retired Col. Emmanuel de Ocampo, president of the Veterans Federation of the Philippines. He is the first US legislator to meet with the President since People Power II.

Bipartisan equity bill

Filner said the climate in Capitol Hill (Congress) favors the passage of the bipartisan equity bill. "Republican Congressman Christopher Smith, the new chairman of the committee on veterans affairs, was a co-sponsor of this bill when it was re-filed in 1998," he said.

He added: "The equity bill will also get a strong push from Congressman Gilman, who will exercise his leadership in the House to steer passage of this important bill."

Metro Washington veterans are also actively lobbying President George Bush. The President's father, former President George Herbert Walker Bush, signed into law the Immigration Act of 1990 (IMACT). This bill enabled Filipino WWII veterans to become US citizens.

Veterans Secretary-Designate Anthony Principi was the one who coordinated the White House signing at that time. Last week, special Philippine envoy Raul Ch. Rabe, former ambassador to the US, called on Principi last week to push for the veterans benefits, and other major Philippine-US issues.

The equity bill has faced stiff opposition in the US Congress because of misconception on its cost. Critics say it will cost nearly $1 billion a year, a figure which Filner said in a July 1998 hearing was based on outdated 1992 estimates of 100,000 surviving veterans, and was "grossly exaggerated."

Today, there are about 49,000 surviving veterans in the Philippines and some 12,000 in the US. Since the benefits will be based on disability, not all of them will receive pension under the re-filed equity bill, reducing the annual cost.

The equity bill will amend The Rescission Act of 1946 (now Section 107, Title 38 of the US Code). The Rescission Act stopped benefits for veterans with non-service-connected (not combat-related) injury or ailment. Only service-connected death and disability benefits for Filipino WWII veterans were retained.

Earlier in Washington, Gilman, former international relations committee chairman, and now its sub-committee chairman, told this reporter that he is committed to the approval of the equity bill in the current 107th Congress.

"This is long overdue," he said.

Last year, Filner and Gilman joined forces with other lawmakers in the Republican-dominated Congress to obtain passage of two Filipino veterans benefits bills for service-connected Filipino WWII veterans residing in the US and in the Philippines.

The bills

The bills, enacted by then President Bill Clinton, raised the disability compensation and provided health care for permanent residents and Fil-American citizens, and also granted burial benefits of $300 ($150, or half-rate for Philippine-based veterans with service-connected disability).

Last night, Filner was welcomed by retired Lt. Gen. Raul Urgello, head of the Philippines' Office of Veterans Affairs in Washington, the US capital.

"Congressman Filner's commitment to our veterans is beyond question," Urgello said. "I hope he will work to increase the amount allotted for the pension benefits under the re-filed equity bill.

In Washington, congressional sources told the INQUIRER the equity bill will face smooth sailing because it will be tacked on an appropriations bill which is assured of passage.

Singapore PM sees RP stability under Macapagal

SINGAPORE—A special envoy of President Macapagal-Arroyo met Tuesday with Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong, a government statement said.

"They discussed the political situation in the Philippines and President Arroyo's priorities in moving forward," the statement issued by Goh's office said after he met with former trade minister Rizalino Navarro.

It said Goh "expressed confidence in the stability of the Philippines" under Ms Macapagal, the former vice president who was swept to power on the crest of a military-backed civilian uprising that deposed President Joseph Estrada last month.

Goh was among the first international leaders to recognize the Arroyo administration, whose constitutionality is still being challenged by Estrada.

Bilateral cooperation

Goh and Navarro, who was named special envoy to Singapore, discussed bilateral cooperation in the information and communications technology sector as well as in tourism.

"They were of the view that bilateral cooperation should also be undertaken with larger regard to improving the confidence of investors in the region," the statement said.

Both Singapore and the Philippines are members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations along with Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam.

Ms Macapagal, an economist and experienced administrator, hopes to revive the Philippine economy which was battered during the uncertainty under Estrada, a former actor expected to be put on trial on corruption charges. *AFP*

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Attn. Mr. Joey Rufino - Executive Director & Secretary for Political Affairs
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From Atty. Corazon Legaspi Cabagnot
Former Governor, Province of Aklan (Contact No. 410-2296)
Subject Formal Party Endorsement of Incumbent Mayor Bobby Clyde Legaspi
As the Official LAKAS NUCD Candidate for Mayor of Makato, Aklan

As the duly recognized political party leader of the LAKAS NUCD in the Province of Aklan and for and behalf of the entire Legaspi Family our leaders in the seventeen (17) towns of Aklan and outlying provinces of Panay, I am making known our official position stongly supporting the candidacy of my first cousin, incumbent Mayor Bobby Clyde M. Legaspi as the official candidate of the party for the mayoralty post in the Municipality of Makato, the hometown of the Legaspi clan.

Mayor Bob Legaspi is the son of the former Governor and undefeated multi term Mayor of Makato and one of the staunchest supporter of the poor and the oppressed and an institution of the party in Aklan, the late Atty. Augusto B. Legaspi. I support the endorsement made recently by our dear friend, the Honorable Vice President Teofisto Guingona supporting in full the candidacy of Mayor Bob Legaspi. Mayor Bob Legaspi in fact as a young LGU chief executive was able to complete more municipal projects in his first three (3) year term compared to the three (3) terms put together or more than 12 years under another cousin the former Makato Mayor Ramon Legaspi Jr.

Thank you and best personal regards.

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OPINION

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'Walang iwanan'

EDITORIAL

THE OPPOSITION candidates for senator (or some of them, anyway) seem to be still in a state of denial. They can't believe that Joseph Estrada did so dismally as president that he was booted out of office by People Power II, so they are still hitching their political wagon to his (fallen) star. This is quite evident in the choice of the official candidates of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino, which has added the name Puwersa ng Masa, led by the former first lady, Luisa Ejercito, and three reelectionist senators who led the effort to block the introduction of damaging testimony and evidence to ensure Estrada's acquittal in the Senate impeachment trial: Juan Ponce Enrile, Gregorio Honasan and Miriam Defensor-Santiago. And as if to further signify their defiance of the popular movement that toppled Estrada, they have adopted as a campaign slogan: "*Walang iwanan. Ipaglaban ang kaibigan.*"

"We won't abandon a friend. We will fight for him," vowed Enrile, in obvious reference to the deposed president. Those words must have been among the sweetest Estrada has heard since he stepped down last Jan. 20. And the assurance must have sounded even more touching and significant, when he remembered that it was given by someone who, 15 years ago, did not only abandon but also betrayed a friend and patron, then President Ferdinand Marcos.

It is difficult to think of a more fitting battle cry for the Estrada loyalists. It was this "all-for-one-one-for-all" principle that defined the Estrada presidency. It was what he brought to Malacañang, it was what brought the nation to grief, and it was what brought his presidency down in the end.

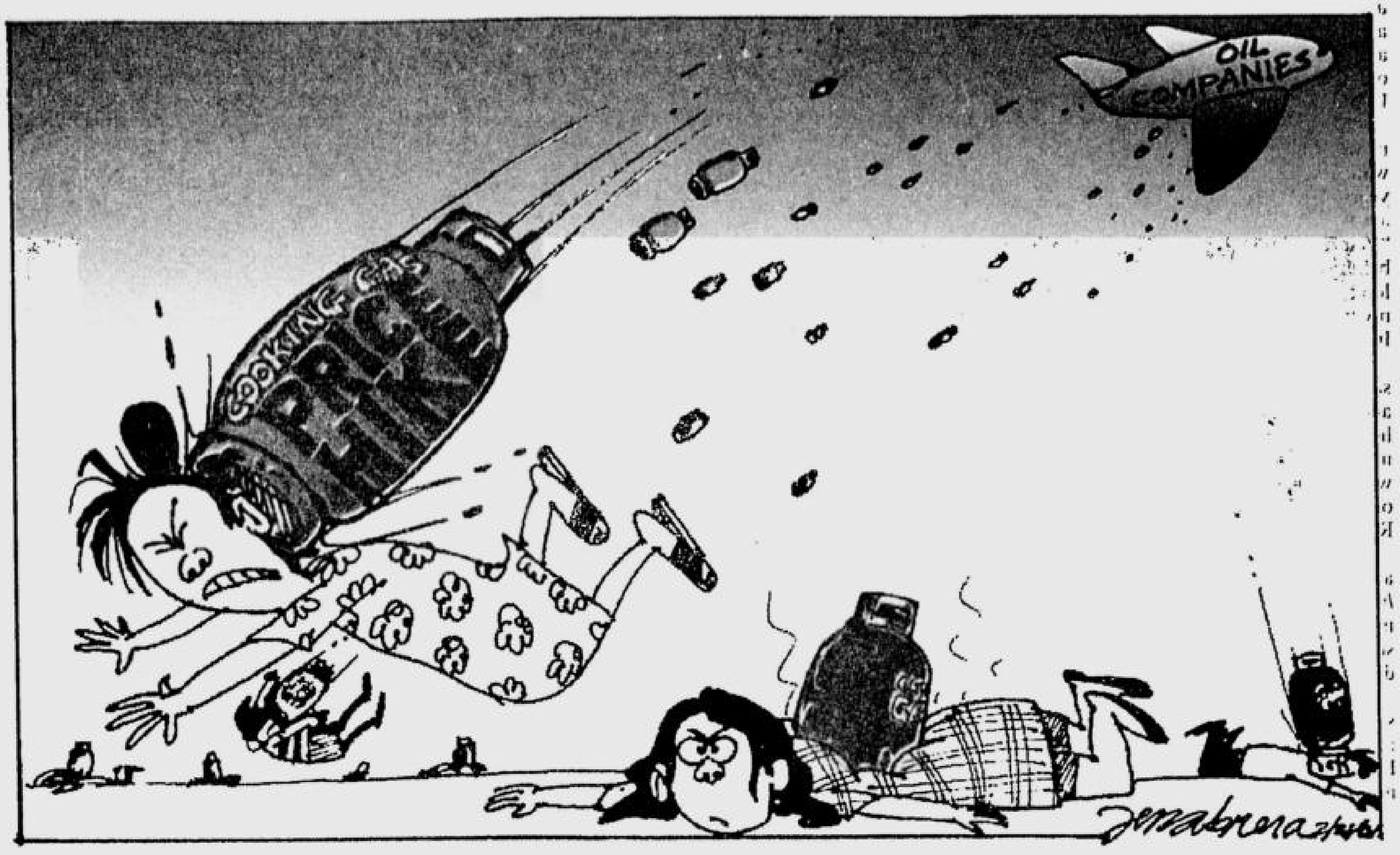
Estrada considered the presidency as one big party for his *barkada*. Thus, among the first things he did was to distribute positions and titles to friends and political allies who helped him win the elections. Then he proceeded to dispense favors right and left, without of course forgetting to provide for himself and his many families.

In return, these friends and allies reciprocated by giving him their blind loyalty. Thus, while Estrada mismanaged the government, everyone in the Cabinet and among his advisers rushed to blame earlier administrations and external factors for the country's economic slide. When Estrada wined and dined or gambled until the wee hours of the morning and got wrong advice from his drinking buddies, everyone kept quiet about it. When he received big-time gamblers and smugglers in Malacañang, dipped his dirty hands into tobacco taxes, accepted kickbacks from big business transactions and accepted protection money from *jueteng* lords, nobody went public with the disclosure, until Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson raised a howl to protect his life against assassins he suspected to have been hired by the Palace.

This conspiracy to hide Estrada's criminal activities involved not only his close circle of cronies and advisers but also his political allies in Congress. Singson wanted to tell the House about the bribery and plunder committed by Estrada, but he was muzzled by rabid pro-administration congressmen. When the House finally voted to impeach Estrada, his Senate allies made sure he would never be convicted by suppressing the disclosure of vital evidence.

When cracks developed in the Cabinet following the resignation of Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas III, the other Cabinet members rallied around Estrada and vowed to stick with him, come what may. They knew Estrada was bringing the whole country down. They knew he could no longer govern and the country was plunging into chaos. They knew that the only way to stave it off was for Estrada to step down. Apparently nobody among his advisers told him to do so, and the Cabinet never moved to force him to do so. A mass resignation from the Cabinet would have made people power, with its attendant risk of violence, unnecessary. But the Cabinet members believed that only Estrada deserved their loyalty and that it was their solemn obligation to stay with him, regardless of what happened to the nation and to the Filipino people. Thus, the people themselves had to go out to the streets to oust Estrada.

Now Estrada's loyal allies want the Filipino people to reward them for their loyalty to a president who had betrayed their trust and his oath. Acting as if nothing has changed, they are running on the slogan "*Walang iwanan,*" like they were part of Erap's old *barkada*. It's time Filipino voters put them in their place. As in, *iwan sa kangkungan.*



Erap has cash hoard? Demonetize ₱1,000 bills, says solon

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

IS it true that Erap has an enormous cash hoard kept in an underground vault in one of his many mansions? Rep. Robert Ace Barbers believes it is true. The money could have come from billions in bank deposits that were withdrawn before and during the impeachment trial. Since it would be impossible to change all of them into foreign currency and send them abroad through the banking system without leaving a paper trail, the rumor that they are being kept in a secret vault here would appear logical. The same hoard, according to the paranoid, can be used by Erap to destabilize the Macapagal administration.

Barbers' solution to this possibility is to demonetize all the P1,000 bills with Erap's signature. Then print new bills with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's signature.

But the printing would cost quite a bundle. To cut costs, Barbers proposes changing only Estrada's signature but retaining the other features of the P1,000 bill.

But that means many Erap bills can still be passed on to unsuspecting victims if the old Erap bills and the new Macapagal bills look the same except for their signature. In hurried transactions in big amounts, the signature on each bill cannot be examined thoroughly.

Besides, it would take at least six months to demonetize the old bills. During that time, Erap can use his hoard to bankroll his candidates in the May elections or finance a coup against Ms Macapagal's administration.

* * *

Petron has increased the price of its liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) by P16.50 per 11 kg-cylinder. One cylinder now costs from P265 to P275. Shell and Caltex will follow Petron's move. The new oil players are expected to follow suit. When one of the Big Three raises its prices, can the others be far behind? Clear proof that the oil companies are operating as a cartel or oligopoly.

The Philippines is an attractive haven not only to money-launderers but also to cartels and oligopolies because we have no anti-trust legislation in spite of the fact that the Constitution mandates the State to prevent cartels and restraints on free trade. We have cartels not only in the oil industry but also in the pharmaceutical and cement industries. Not surprisingly, the companies belonging to these cartels are mostly foreign-owned. But even members of the Bankers Association of the Philippines operate as an oligopoly, agreeing among themselves on the deposit and lending rates. We have so many banks (there is a bank in almost every corner) but they have the same rates: a pittance of 4 percent for savings deposits but as much as a whopping 24 percent for loans—for a greedy 20 percent spread.

This has been going on for decades, holding Filipino consumers by their b____, but does any legislator bother to file any legislation to stop it? Of course not. Lobby money is too plentiful to resist.

Instead, we have legislators passing two Oil Deregulation laws that strengthened, rather than weakened, the hold of the oil cartel. And wonder of wonders, the principal sponsor of those two laws—now responsible for the continuing rise in domestic oil prices—is being groomed to be the next secretary of the Department of Energy: former Rep. Dante Tinga, then chair of the House energy committee that crafted the two bills, originally drafted, some claim, by the oil companies themselves.

Fortunately, we will have elections this May to elect new legislators. Two candidates for the senatorial elections—former Speaker Manuel Villar and former Press Secretary Dong Puno—were guests at last Monday's Kapihan sa Manila, and they talked about introducing, if elected, new legislations and amending old ones.

Villar said he would introduce anti-trust bills to stop the operations of the oil, pharmaceutical and cement cartels. Hallelujah! He also said he favors the passage of an oil exchange law to break up the oil cartel and make sure that the consumers get the lowest prices possible in a free market.

* * *

For his part, Puno said he favors "fine tuning" the stupid Lina Law. That law, principally sponsored by now Interior Secretary Joey Lina, was ballyhooed then as the ultimate solution to the squatting problem. But instead of solving it, the Lina Law worsened the squatting problem a hundred-fold. Because the law gave incentives to squatting. Instead of punishing lawbreakers, the law obliged owners of the lots they squat on to pay them a "disturbance fee"—even if it was the squatters who "disturbed" the owners—and to give them relocation sites. The squatters promptly sold the rights to their new homes and went back to squatting. Why not? Squatting is rewarded by the Lina Law. (Joey Lina should have been appointed not as interior secretary but as the anti-squatting czar. Let's see how he will solve the squatting problem with his law.)

After several years of the Lina Law, it is clear that it is not working. The government has spent billions of pesos and is running out of land to relocate the squatters but they have increased in numbers instead of getting less. The authors may have the best intentions but, as they say, the road to hell is paved with good intentions. Therefore, the law clearly has to be amended before the squatting problem gets even worse.

If elected, Puno said he would file the necessary amendatory bills to make the law better, adding that he is against repealing it altogether.

Let's see.

* * *

Comments are welcome at asiseeit@pacific.net.ph

Never again

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

A GRAVE injustice has happened while we were busy impeaching a president. That is denying the overseas Filipinos the vote. I confess to be being a party to the crime, if unwittingly. My good friend Nonoi Hacbang, who has been tenaciously fighting for it and came here a couple of times last year (from Amsterdam, where he is based) to press the cause in Congress, had been at me to say something about it. I thought there would be time enough for it. I was wrong.

Before I knew it, Congress had killed the bill granting the overseas vote. That is the verb the Filipinos in Europe and America choose to use to describe the deed, and it is accurate. It is an act of violence. It is a crime against a tenth of the Philippine population who are to be found abroad, and an even bigger proportion of the Philippine voting population—most of them are qualified to vote. The bill got to committee level at both houses of Congress, but that was as far as it got. It perished swiftly there, aided in no small way by its last gasps being unheard by the public. It wasn't just Erap who got killed politically last month, the overseas Filipinos were too.

As the Filipino groups abroad lament, they're back to square one. To get the bill passed the next time around, they have to go through the same laborious process of getting the new congressmen and senators to press for the bill, see it through the committees, and vote it to law. It is indeed a dismal pass, and one they have every right to grieve, and be furious about.

I've written about the overseas vote before, and I can't imagine why to this day, we do not have it. There is no reason we cannot have it. The objections to it simply hold no water. The notion that it is prone to cheating is silly—the local vote itself is prone to cheating, as we know very well from the fact that Juan Ponce Enrile is a senator. We do not take the vote away from local voters because they are likely to be cheated, why should we take the vote away from overseas Filipinos for that same reason?

But I will not go through the process of debunking the objections again. Suffice it here to point out the enormity of the crime, or give the public to appreciate the extent of the loss, to make sure that this is the last time this ever happens. I said several months ago that there was a way the electorate could be improved, short of massive electoral education. That was to give the overseas Filipinos the vote. The sheer number of overseas Filipinos assured their impact on elections would be tremendous. Officially, they count as 6.19 million, spread over 139 countries. That is already a tenth of the population. There are probably just as many illegals. We extend the vote to them—and there is no reason why we shouldn't, why should we discriminate against our own?—and we have an entirely new bloc of voters to reckon with.

Overnight, I said, that would improve the quality of the vote. That was so because of the composition of the overseas Filipinos. Most of them were college graduates, worked as professionals, and looked at the affairs of their country with critical understanding. Travel, moreover, had broadened their perspectives, allowing them to compare cultures and societies, and suggest alternatives—and new leaders—for the home country.

All that was borne out with forceful clarity over the last four months. It was the global Filipino community, as I keep saying, and not just the local one that helped topple Erap's gangster state. It was the storm of protest Filipinos around the world unleashed and brought to bear on their country through the power of digital technology that swept Erap out of power. The overseas Filipinos were not just passive observers in the drama that unfolded over the last several months, they were active participants in it. Exceedingly so, their physical uprooting from their heartland filling them with a patriotism that had no peer since Rizal wrote love letters to his country, and their sudden virtual and instantaneous repatriation through the Web filling them with a sense of discovery that had no peer since Bonifacio found out he and his fellow *indios* could actually make a country.

To say their comments were deeply thoughtful and their concern for the country genuinely felt is to understate the case. Of course they had their share of jerks too, people who thought the country should live up to the image or expectations of America, or who thought that living abroad had given them to know what was best for their country. But these were a tiny minority, a small ripple in a huge pond. The majority was not like that at all. These were people who had discovered in their deprivation of the sights and smells of their country a feeling of immediacy with it and in their sudden power to influence its destiny a monumental sense of responsibility and caring for it.

What irony that at the very time the overseas Filipinos had made themselves citizens of their country in a very real sense through virtual technology, they would be made virtual citizens again by being deprived of the one real right every citizen enjoyed—the right to vote.

It is a grave injustice, and one we would do well never to repeat again. I do have one serious recommendation to make if it should happen again—if the next round of representatives and senators would sit on the bill and cite all sorts of excuses not to pass it. Which is for the overseas Filipinos, the contract workers in particular, the much touted modern-day heroes of the Philippines, to refuse to remit their income. That comes down to $6.1 billion yearly, which represents only bank remittances. I've heard some finance people say the total, including non-bank remittances, could go up to a mind-boggling $15 billion.

The principle is simple, which the first Americans who held a tea party in Boston, articulated very well: No taxation without representation. No honey, no money. No right to vote, to vote to write off the country's debts.

There is some use in crying over spilt milk. If it should make us rue the pass sufficiently to vow never to spill the milk again.

Old age, nationalism and Edsa

HIGH BLOOD

Narita Manuel-Gonzalez

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. **—Ed.**

THE OTHER day, my frustration over not being able to go to Edsa was dispelled. I heard, during a TV talk show, a guest saying to her father, "You are 80 years old. Don't go to Edsa." When the old man insisted to go, the guest said, "If you go, I stay home." The old man stayed home.

"Lola," my grandson said, "You cannot make it; we'll park the car at Greenhills. You cannot walk to the Edsa Shrine." True enough, at 82 years, I use an umbrella cane to help me negotiate the pathways. "And," my grandson added, "You'll be hemmed in. People to the right of you, behind, left and right. You can't move around to look for a CR." I'm glad I can still hold, some of my friends cannot be helped by those thick pads. Incontinence is another fear of the elderly.

In the old days, a friend, lawyer Fely of Erda said, "Our *lolas* just stand still, spread their legs and let go." I can remember my grandaunt with her long black skirt doing just that. There were no nylon pants yet. We younger folks, had what was called "drawers." My mother, who made all our dresses, sewed mine with laced edges. No RTWs in those days.

I decided to stay home and the TV provided all what I missed at Edsa and more. *Consuelo de bobo*. Those who flocked to Edsa missed the TV melodrama of the Great Trial of President Joseph Ejercito Estrada. They missed those last daily dramatic days, especially.

What were the most unforgettable scenes I saw? After the women, especially Lim, Banal and Ocampo; there were Yasay, Yulo and Espiritu. The defense lawyers seemed cocky to me. Through what they thought were the clinchers, their questioning made the listening public learn what they could not have known, the death threats. I like Yulo's saying the fourth reason he was there sitting on the stand was what his mother had said, "Testifying/witnessing was also sanctifying." I hope I heard right. A commentator said while Espiritu was testifying, that Espiritu was a good family man and that his wife must be prostrate on the floor praying for her husband's safety. I looked up my Delaney files and found out that Espiritu's wife was an UPSCAN. Her father was supposed to go fetch Father Delaney from the Jesuit Mirador House in Baguio for a breakfast date. He was told instead that Father Delaney had died that morning. As for the Fortun brothers, I'm glad that neither one is the Fortun of UPSCA days. I am glad to know that the mother and wife of the two mentioned witnesses are the true traditional Filipino women who did not want mansions and fat bank accounts.

This stirring of pride of country started when I was in Grade One in a barrio school in Zambales. I was assigned to pull the rope that would bring the Philippine Flag to the top of the flagpole and we sang, "Philippines My Philippines." I have great feelings for this song:

I love my own, my native land
Philippines my Philippines
To thee I give my heart and hand.
Philippines, my Philippines
The trees that crown the mountain strands
The seas that beat upon the land,
Awake my heart to thy command,
Philippines, my Philippines

There was another flagpole for the American Flag that must be raised to the top of the pole as we sung "Oh say, can you see," during those daily morning ceremonies.

I was deeply moved again when in 1946, I heard over the radio that on that day, we are no longer a Commonwealth, but a Republic of the Philippines. I imagined the Filipino Flag flying high up in the air, free and proud. And there was to be only one flag for all the days to come for our country. We do not need to sing the "Stars Spangled Banner" anymore.

However, in United States, the Filipino-Americans still sing two national anthems before they start any affair or event. They sing our, "Lupang Hinirang" and the "Star Spangled Banner." They really missed People Power II in the Philippines at Edsa.

Narita Manuel-Gonzalez, is the widow of the Filipino writer, NVM Gonzalez.

Sex and desire

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

AS LONG as gender inequities prevail, as long as women do not enjoy to the same degree the same rights and privileges as men, then the reproductive health of women as well as of men will not improve or be enhanced. This is the gist of the "Manila Declaration," adopted during the recent Asia-Pacific Conference on Reproductive Health (APCRH). "Gender equity is the foundation on which the needed improvements in reproductive health for all people can be constructed," the more than 1,000 delegates from the Philippines, the rest of Asia and the Pacific region said. In addition, they asserted the following "basic principles":

- Reproductive rights and responsibilities are human rights and personal responsibilities. These are not the monopoly of any social group, and hence should not be unilaterally decided by any particular social group or institution.
- Reproductive rights of women will only be protected when reproductive rights and responsibilities of all peoples are recognized and promoted in an atmosphere of humane and just structures of society.
- Reproductive rights of individuals will only be protected when societies recognize the freedom of individuals to express responsibly their sexual and reproductive preferences.
- Individual expressions of sexual and reproductive rights will only be safe and responsible if individuals have full knowledge of the potential consequences of their actions, and these expressions are shaped by respect for the rights of other persons.
- Reproductive rights will only be promoted by participation of both men and women.

They thus declared that "only through a forthright, critical and effective promotion of gender equity will we be able to ensure reproductive health for all people and development of our societies."

* * *

NOT all 1,000 plus participants in the APCRH agreed with and signed the Declaration. Three women, at least one of whom identified herself as a member of the Women's Commission of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, expressed loud dissent with the Declaration's conclusions during the closing ceremonies.

Previously, one of the women took issue with the points raised in a paper written by Prof. Arche Ligo, who teaches theology at St. Scholastica's College, for a session on the role of religion.

One of the more provocative passages from Professor Ligo's paper goes: "The narrow moral views on women's bodies and her sexuality have also resulted in dire consequences for women's health. Until now, the Church has not changed its attitude toward artificial means of contraception. Many still hold that taking the pill is the same as abortion. Any discussion on methods of contraception ends up in a moral debate, with the woman's body and sexuality becoming the bone of contention, and she losing her voice over the issue." During the open forum, the "dissenting" woman virtually scolded Professor Ligo for "misrepresenting" Catholic women. And when the moderator sought to cut her short in the interest of saving time, the woman raced up the stage and accused the moderator of stifling her voice.

And yet, as INQUIRER columnist and health anthropologist Michael Tan declared in his well-received presentation, portions of which he has already published in his column, the "*masa*" all over the Philippines and Asia are already far more open about sex and sexuality than the so-called guardians of morality would like to believe.

"There is a gap between elite and mass perceptions of sexuality," Tan said. Using examples as varied as classic Chinese and Japanese erotic scrolls, temple carvings and the lyrics of bawdy "love" songs, Tan demonstrated how "parody and satire of sex" have long been staples of popular culture. Such open, unblushing attitudes toward sex and relations should mark public education campaigns on reproductive health if these are to succeed, he says. "It's time we celebrate sex and desire, while of course recognizing the risks attached to them."

* * *

SEX and desire. Too often, we confuse one for the other, or else use them interchangeably, as if they mean the same thing. Allow me to tell you, then, about two incidents, which took place around the time of the conference, which brought home to me the crucial difference.

In one, I had just finished giving a talk on "boy-girl relationships" at a high school with a "mixed" population. Because the school has a fairly progressive approach toward sex education, I thought it was to ask a question about premarital sex that a young woman approached me as I was about to leave the theater. Her question, when it came, was almost heartbreaking in its innocence. "How do I tell a boy that I like him?" she asked. The boy was a good friend, she said, and they had plenty of fun times together, but she was afraid that he didn't like her in the same manner that she "liked" him.

Well, why don't you take a risk and tell him how you feel? I asked. "But what if he laughs at me, or worse, what if he tells his friends?" she wailed. "Why not be honest with him and tell him that you're about to share a secret and that you hope he will not betray your trust?" She looked doubtful, knowing better than me, perhaps, the heartless nature of adolescent boys.

"I'm just so afraid that I'll leave this school without ever having told him what I feel for him," she confessed. "Well, everything in life involves risk," I said. "If you tell him and he rejects you, it will hurt like hell for a while, but you will survive it. But if you don't say anything, you might end up wondering for the rest of your life what if..."

* * *

AND this, alas, was what a friend of mine wondered she might be doomed to ask herself on lonely nights.

Independent, accomplished, outspoken, she had wondered if she would ever find a man to share her life with when all of a sudden she found herself in a relationship. Unbidden, love came; and without warning, it also waned. "You are too opinionated," he told her, which was really unfair since she had thought that was what attracted him in the first place. She spent many nights crying over the breakup, but when another friend asked her what exactly she was crying for, she took stock. "And that was when I realized that I was crying not so much for him or our love, but for what I might have missed: marriage, motherhood, the whole package." Flippantly, I assured her the "right" man could be on his way. But now I understand her fear. For "women of a certain age," emotional investments are not made or withdrawn so casually.

What do we understand by sex? What do we mean by desire? For my two friends, one just starting on the road to relationships, the other seeing the turn just round the bend, desire holds vastly contrasting hues, but may in the end be made up of the same primary colors.

Paintings as history

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

PAINTINGS, particularly those by 19th century Filipino painters, have always been part of my research. When I grow tired of text, either in print or in illegible manuscript form, I recharge by visiting a gallery or museum in search of historical clues in old pictures. The Bangko Sentral has a fine collection of women's portraits that are full of social detail—embroidered blouses, earrings, rings, rosaries, marble-top tables, *santos*, sometimes even a pair of pudgy hardworking hands. You learn not only about costume, but also about the lifestyles of the rich and famous of the time. Paintings are like time capsules providing glimpses into a way of life that is long gone.

In Fort Santiago is a portrait of Jose Rizal by Telesforo Sucgang which is not very well known not for lack of technique, but because Rizal is not flattered or idealized by the artist. Hidalgo painted a portrait of Rizal in 1884, boyish, with a rather prominent chin, and hair that stands ruffled as young people do theirs today. In later life we recognize Rizal for his slick hair parted on the side. Luna painted his friend, made him appear dignified as a national hero should look like, and this was painted long before Rizal was shot and became a hero! Sucgang's portrait is fascinating because of a dark background, making Rizal's fair face almost jump out of the canvas like a ghost. Rizal's profile is clearly delineated, accenting one of the things he was most conscious of—his pronounced chin. While Rizal cannot replace the comedians Babalu or Babalina, this portrait is an image we are not used to. We have three portraits of the same man, each different because the painters processed the image in their minds before committing it to canvas. Will we ever know what Rizal really looked like? Fortunately, we have photographs, but that is another story.

To prepare for this column I made a quick visit to the Lopez Museum to be literally eyeball-to-eyeball with Felix Resurreccion Hidalgo's model, Maria Yrritia. She stared back at me from two of my favorite paintings in that museum "Mi Amiga (My Friend/Lover)" and "En el Jardin (In the Garden)." How can I write about someone who is so poorly documented? Even Alfredo Roces in his coffee-table book on Hidalgo, leaves us with titillating speculative questions. So obsessed is Roces with Maria that he twice misidentified Rizal's girlfriend (and Antonio Luna's crush) Nelly Boustead for Maria in photographs. Roces repeatedly wonders about the relationship between artist and model, yet refrains from asking direct questions like: Was it purely professional, or as Rosanna Roces would put it suggestively, *trabaho lang to*? She modeled for Hidalgo for about three decades—were they lovers? Or was Hidalgo too *kuripot* to hire fresh models every year? Perhaps, Hidalgo wanted to paint the same woman over time, marking the painful process of aging on a beautiful face. Hidalgo executed a series of small oil studies showing a woman in a doorway painted at different times of the day, each painting changing in color and hue as the sunlight cast distinct lighting into the room.

So many unanswered questions generated by one woman in so many Hidalgo paintings, which kept me going back to those paintings over the years. Half an hour later as I left the Lopez Museum, the ever helpful librarian inquired, wasn't I going to do research that day? I replied, I am finished with my research. She noted that I came empty-handed, no laptop, not even a pen and paper. I pointed to my eyes and said all my research was in there somewhere.

Hidalgo returned to Manila in 1912 after 33 years of life in Europe. He visited his ailing mother but returned to Europe. He would return in 1913 embalmed and inside a coffin. While in Manila, Hidalgo complained about the heat, the mosquitoes, the bright Philippine sunlight that forced him to wear sunglasses. These are flimsy reasons for not staying on in the land of his birth. We know that Maria was with him, but she was not welcomed in the Hidalgo home in Quiapo. What would the neighbors say? Hidalgo and his model were not married, but they shared the same Paris flat. Besides, modeling then and now was not a very decent occupation. Manila's gossip mills churned, this woman disrobed for a living, there were probably other services rendered.

Maria was first billeted in the Palma de Mallorca hotel and later moved to a Hidalgo rest house on Lamayan Street in Santa Ana which explains why Hidalgo spent his days in Santa Ana, officially to paint. At night he returned to his mother in Quiapo. Both returned to Paris and Maria would only return in 1913 to accompany Hidalgo's corpse and turn it over to his family.

In 1917 the Hidalgo family invited Maria to settle in Manila. At long last, accepted as part of the family, Maria boarded the Spanish mail boat Eizaguirre that was shipwrecked off the Cape of Good Hope. Only 22 out of the 133 passengers survived, Maria was not one of them. With her I presume were personal papers and some very special paintings presented to her by Hidalgo. All that is lost. All we have left is a skeleton of a romance and her face on numerous paintings, sketches and studies.

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

Peace dividend of Edsa II

OUTLOOK

Rigoberto Tiglao

OTHER than the peso's rebound from its free fall and the restoration of political uncertainty, the biggest benefit out of People Power II is its likely peace dividend.

Only a month in power, President Macapagal-Arroyo has offered to restart negotiations with the country's two biggest insurgencies, that of the Communist Party of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. Yesterday, she unilaterally declared a ceasefire with the rebels.

The door to peace under deposed President Joseph Estrada had been tightly closed, locked and the keys thrown away. Whether it was a wag-the-dog case to raise his popularity ratings (which it did) or not, whether it was his last way of appeasing a hawkish military establishment or not, or whether he wanted to be played in real life his reel macho episodes or not, Estrada waged an unbending all-out war against the CPP and the MILF.

Read CPP chair Jose Ma. Sison's manifestoes, and his vitriol against Estrada even exceeded those he made against Marcos. The CPP even issued an order—whether it was serious or not isn't the point—to its urban guerrillas to assassinate Estrada and his mistresses as "enemies of the people." Read the MILF's statements last year, and the consistent theme is bitterness for what it claimed was Estrada's traitorous all-out attack against its camps when peace talks had been scheduled. For the MILF, the image of Estrada blasphemously eating pork in Camp Abubakar to celebrate the military's purported victory would never be forgotten.

We don't think it was easy for President Macapagal to extend her hand of peace to the rebels. In a conversation we had late last year, she had mentioned to the effect that there's a "rightist ascendancy in the military establishment," that generals in command of the campaign against the MILF were being viewed as "heroes." AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Angelo Reyes last year was also basking in the purported glory of having conquered the MILF's headquarters, Camp Abubakar.

And of course, there's a view that she can't antagonize the military, which played a key, if not decisive role, in suddenly catapulting her to power. There's a view in the military that the MILF especially shouldn't be given any breathing space to recover its losses, that Estrada's all-out war should be continued and decisively won. Some generals were also arguing that Ms Macapagal—especially since she's a woman—can't appear to be weak at this time by offering peace to the rebels.

A political settlement with the MILF and CPP—both 30-year-old insurgencies with devoted followers of hundreds of thousands—is really the biggest task of any Philippine president. It's a Herculean one for the country. What we call the "insurgency problem" is really an epic clash of civilizations: one between mainstream modern-democracy culture against two subcultures; one with Mohamed as its prophet and Allah as its God; and the other with Marx as its prophet, and the "masses" as its deity.

However, there are indications—though still tiny—that the MILF and CPP's civilizations are evolving to jibe, or at least co-exist peacefully, with mainstream society. Before Estrada's all-out war against them, MILF leaders were starting to issue statements that an independent Islamic republic is no longer "non-negotiable." MILF leaders were telling me that they're not as unrealistic to think that a Mindanao-wide Islamic state can be cut off from the Philippines. They were claiming that acceptable could be a form of autonomous administrative body to cover only the four or five clearly Muslim-dominated provinces.

As to the CPP, its participation in People Power II—and it did consistently make up the biggest organized group in the street protests—and its leadership's call for its activists to undertake "electoral struggle" show that there has been an evolutionary process going on within this subculture.

It will take years though to arrive at a peaceful, political settlement with the country's two biggest insurgencies. It is also a given that both will use the "democratic space," as they've done in the years after the first People Power, to recover their lost ground and to expand. The military establishment will certainly react to such developments by ignoring the peace talks and launching offensives against the MILF and the CPP.

But at least a ceasefire could buy time for us to jump-start the economy and maybe finally accelerate it to real, fast-paced growth.

After all, the biggest edge of what we referred to as mainstream modern-democracy civilization isn't any religious or quasi-religious values it offers, but the power of its system to develop the economy.

Careful on UCPB

It won't be that easy for the new administration, as some people seem to think, to take over control of the United Coconut Planters Bank from San Miguel chair Eduardo Cojuangco. Still an untold story is how appointees of the former Ramos administration mismanaged the bank, or at least made huge, reckless loans to big corporations that eventually keeled over. Go over the list of creditors of the biggest corporate bankruptcies spawned by the 1997 Asian crisis, and the UCPB and its investment arm appear as among the top lenders.

When the Estrada administration took over in 1998, the bank actually was on the verge of keeling over because of its bad loans to failed conglomerates as those of Jose Go and the RJ Group of Companies. Interest on the loans—quite interestingly—was booked in advance as bank profits. Unsurprising however, since the bank had a lucrative compensation scheme for its board of directors and top officers based on the bank's sharing of "profits."

What has buoyed the bank up since 1998 were not only deposits of San Miguel, but personal accounts—mostly dollar time deposits of Cojuangco and its vice chair, Ramon Ang. Unless it can get funds to prop up the bank, the new administration will have to deal with Cojuangco and Ang.

* * *

Comments: rtiglao@inq7.net

THEY SAID

Judgment of the people

"I would like to go back to the people and be judged by them in this election so that I will know if I, according to their perception, committed a grievous error."

—Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile on his decision to seek reelection

Backdoor talks

"The policy of backdoor negotiations and secret deals will lead to the betrayal of public trust."

—Bayan Muna president Satur Ocampo urging an end to backdoor talks with known Estrada cronies

Hostaged by one

"We cannot be held hostage by a member who says too much. It is time we fulfill our constitutional duty. Otherwise, we'll stay here 'til kingdom come."

—Rep. Joker Arroyo on Rep Didagen Dilangalen's lengthy ramble

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LETTERS

A commission to screen candidates?

ON PAPER, our electoral system is just and democratic. It allows any qualified citizen to run for public office. In practice, it is a highly qualified citizen who can run for public office. In practice, it is highly discriminatory and undemocratic, for only the rich and powerful can win in Philippine elections.

It will take at least P20 million to be elected as mayor, and up to P1 billion to be elected as president. Once elected, the priority of our government officials is to recoup these millions tenfold and a hundredfold, and repay these political debts to cronies and supporters by patronage, percentaging and juicy government positions and contracts. It is no wonder then that our government is perennially in debt, neck-deep in graft and corruption and afflicted with cronyism and inefficiency. We are then saddled by a bunch of eminent personages in government whose only qualification for public office is their ability to broker enough money, power and connections to win the elections.

There must be a better way to elect truly qualified government officials and democratize the electoral process. In the private sector, an applicant is subjected to intense screening, testing and interviews to ensure the right fit and match to the position applied for. Why can't this be applied to public officials?

My proposal is that all those aspiring for public office be tested and screened thoroughly by an independent commission to ensure that only those with the qualities for true leadership, statesmanship, compassion, integrity, competence and other qualities for public service, be allowed to run for public office. The top three to five applicants for each elected position are then chosen and certified as official candidates. The government—and only the government—then spends for their campaign, giving them equitable exposure to media and the public to ensure a level playing field for all candidates. This will allow the poor but qualified candidate to compete fairly with the rich and well-connected candidate.

The new system will not only democratize elections, but also ensure that all those elected to public office are truly qualified for their positions. Since they will not be beholden to any party or person for their election, they will be in a better position to concentrate on statesmanlike governance instead of efforts to recoup their election expenses and repay political debt and patronage.

Having said the above, I am 100 percent certain that my proposal will not merit a second glance from our honorable lawmakers. For given my proposed process, very few of them will be able to survive the testing and screening, and will consequently find themselves replaced in their elective positions by those more qualified than their honors.—**SAMUEL J. YAP, 2 Verbena, Doña Manuela, Pamplona 3, Las Piñas City**

Limitation of news space

ERAP Agco La! (Enough of Erap), a Church-led multi-sectoral alliance headed by Archbishop Oscar V. Cruz of the Lingayen-Dagupan Archdiocese has been at the forefront of the Pangasinenses' struggle for Joseph Estrada's removal from office.

We have had successes in organizing protest actions coinciding with national mass actions, including a 5,000-strong march-rally in Dagupan City Plaza last Nov. 30, a series of noise barrage on Jan. 17-19 attended by thousands culminating in a 10,000-strong march-rally at the city plaza. Recently, we organized a Pilgrimage Rally of Thanksgiving to our Lady of Manaoag attended by more than 10,000 which turned out to be the first out of town visit by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. It is worth mentioning that Dagupan City, or the whole of Pangasinan for that matter, has not had a protest action of this magnitude since the days of Ninoy Aquino's assassination.

It took time for us to send this letter because of its complaining nature. We recognize the INQUIRER as one of the most respected newspapers in the country, and we have continuously sent our press releases and news stories to your good office in the hope of projecting our efforts at the national level. However, we are saddened by the fact that we have not seen the expected coverage of our activities in your newspaper. Specifically, while there was extensive coverage on former President Estrada's visit to San Carlos City last Nov. 30, no mention was made about our rally in Dagupan on the same day. Likewise, our series of noise barrage and candlelight ceremonies on Oct. 25, 26 and 27 and march and prayer rally last Oct. 28 did not find space in your paper. And more recently, our noise barrage and rallies during Edsa II and the Thanksgiving Pilgrimage to our Lady of Manaoag, were also not given expected attention.—**AURORA SAMSON-REYNA, convenor, Erap Agco La!, Pangasinan**

Anti-Estrada protest actions in Pangasinan and in other parts of the country were covered extensively by INQUIRER correspondents, but unfortunately, not all stories could be accommodated or published lengthily due to tight news space.—Ed.

'Kotong' cops and pollution deserve MMDA attention

THIS is to call the attention of the new Philippine National Police chief, Leandro Mendoza, to the resurrection of "*kotong* cops" (actually, not only these cops but the traffic enforcers, too). A case in point is the intersection of Commonwealth Avenue and Tandang Sora in Quezon City. As soon as Panfilo Lacson was replaced as PNP chief, these *kotong* cops and traffic enforcers became very visible especially in the afternoon when it starts to get dark.

Secondly, since new Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Benjamin Abalos assumed office, it seems that his time has been focused mainly on the garbage problem. Other vital things have been set aside like the drive against smoke-belching vehicles, particularly buses on Edsa and Commonwealth Avenue. You can see them at any time of the day plying the route with impunity since no one seems to be watching.

Lastly, I think reports and discussions on the worsening air pollution in the metropolis deserve front-page coverage all the time.—**TOMAS F. TUASON, Ayala Life-FGU Center, 6811 Ayala Avenue, Makati City**

Too early to judge GMA appointees

I AM amazed by the turn of events in our county, starting with the impeachment of an unworthy president and then People Power II at Edsa.

I am proud that we are capable of holding a bloodless revolution to oust the leader of our country. I'm sure many of those who joined the demonstration at Edsa hoped to have a major change in the Cabinet members and the other officials that President Macapagal picked to work with her.

However, I am worried that we are demanding too much at once, although that should be understandable, too. I think we should not be in a hurry. We all know the previous administration failed because of wrong decisions. Would we want to repeat them?

The selection of Cabinet members is still going on and whether those chosen are traditional politicians (*trapos*) or retired military officials, I think they deserve to be given a chance to prove their capabilities. How can we oppose these people when we have not yet seen what they can accomplish in their present positions?—**MARGARITA OCAMPO, 3245 Villa Adelina Subd., Barangay Mayondon, Los Baños, Laguna**

How truth can be grasped best

EVERYONE is amazed because history has repeated itself in People Power II. Before we again become victims of our own unawareness, perhaps we better start realizing that we are mechanical and repetitive because we have conditioned ourselves to function according to a set of beliefs and a pattern of behavior that tradition had long ago created. The truth is that we are prone to errors because the thinking that we have grown so enamoured of is, like our ancestors' thoughts, conducive to myths, illusions and so on.

To effect a change, we need to understand that our failure to transcend our propensity to error is like our tendency to remain exclusively in the mental-emotional realm where we create, for instance, the illusion that it is in the mental where we become intelligent. The fact is that the thoughts we conjure to create our ideas only inebriates us. Thus, our blindness to the fact that misperceptions occur in the mental because the deceitful ego rules there. And we would not be making the mistake of overindulging our egoistic fantasies if we knew that the intelligence to understand truths occurs in the higher level, the spiritual, because the soul reigns there.

In other words, because intelligence is in the spirit and not in the mind, we need to learn to raise ourselves above the ego in order to touch the soul.

Indeed, the intellect does not offer the ideal way of seeing. It's an illusion to believe that our thoughts get us in touch with the soul. The truth is that thinking is to the ego what discerning or intuiting is to the soul. They are as different as black and white. Consider: the mental faculty of imagination is where selective thoughts like personal preferences are created on the basis of our memories. On the other hand, it is by emptying the mind of all its contents that discerning or intuiting is activated. Thus, because intuition goes beyond mere thought, what is perceived in a flash is truth, not the product of thought.

The fact therefore that one is selfish indicates a mind that is controlled by the ego. A rigid behavior pattern is proof of a weakened being that is lost in a maze. Thus, a person who exploits and manipulates circumstances and people for selfish purposes indicates a deranged mind-set which can only end up in sorrow and pain—unless the wrong is righted in time.

What is regrettable about People Power II is that it would not have happened had our leaders reined in their egos in the first place, considering their duty to lead by example. But the lust for power has made them unaware that their egotistic antics have robbed them of the ability to understand problems. Thus, the repeated mistakes.—**ERNESTO K. MAGTOTO, Las Piñas City**

Actors should stick to their field

WHILE every Filipino of the right age, healthy state of mind and proper qualifications is free to run for public office, I think that celebrities—actors and actresses—would be more useful to the public by reforming and overhauling their own field. Show biz needs to be transformed, and its people reformed, in order to transmit the right values and needed virtues in Philippine society. The poor taste and very low ethical content of a number of shows and movies we see on screen indicate a decadent industry needing "health maintenance."

Politics is for those who are ready to genuinely serve and sacrifice for the common good. May voters be wise enough to discern candidates with good character.

May corrupt people allow themselves to be healed and spare the healthy populace of their infectious disease. Please help build new lives.—**MIGUEL ANDRES MERCADO, Sulong Pinoy, Capitol District, Quezon City**

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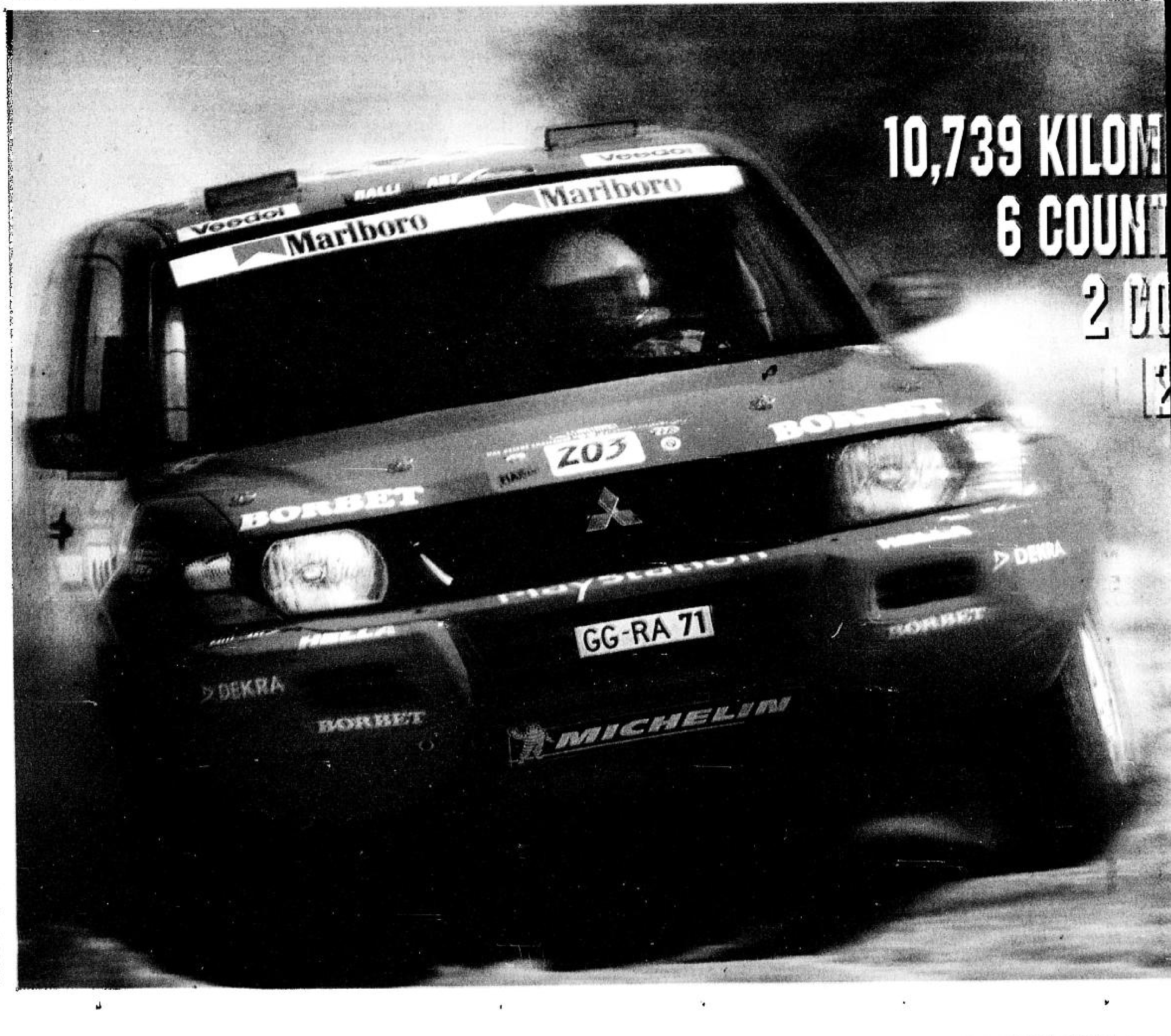
Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

Display of Santiago's arrogance, conceit

SEN. Miriam Defensor-Santiago appeared in "I-Witness," a weekly program aired over GMA-7, which featured the 11 senators who voted against the opening of the controversial second envelope during the impeachment trial of deposed President Joseph Estrada. In that feature, Santiago parried with gusto the public outcry against her performance during the trial by labeling the strong Edsa sentiments of the people as coming from "insects" or "inferior life forms." By so doing, Santiago effectively displayed on nationwide TV an arrogance and conceit unbecoming of any public servant.

She should be reminded that the same "insects" voted her into office and that the same "inferior life forms" supported her failed presidential campaign. She should not brandish her academic credentials and make it appear that she is God's gift to humanity to whom we owe a debt of gratitude for serving as senator-judge. Someone has to remind her that her stint in the University of the Philippines was subsidized to a certain extent by the taxes paid by the very people she derisively calls "insects."

The Filipino people must unite to avenge this high-brow slur by rejecting outright her declared reelection bid.—**EDWIN M. CARILLO, 1878 Ma. Clara St., Sampaloc, Manila**



The WORLD

MARGOT J. BATERINA, Editor

GAFFES, SCANDALS

Pressure mounts on Mori to resign as Japan's PM

TOKYO—The opposition boycotted budget hearings in Parliament on Tuesday, stalling government business and adding pressure on Japan's scandal-plagued prime minister to resign.

Three opposition parties—the Democrats, the Communists and the Social Democrats—said they refused to attend the budget talks in the House of Representatives to protest the handling of the discussions by the ruling party.

The boycott comes as speculation mounts that Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori will soon step down. A yearlong string of verbal gaffes and scandals have eroded his approval ratings to single digits.

Attention on Tuesday focused on comments by Hosei Norota, the budget committee chair and a former defense chief, saying that Japanese aggression in the 1930s and '40s helped liberate Asia from colonialism.

The comments have been criticized in South Korea and China.

Opposition parties also said they were protesting Norota's scheduling of hearings for the committee without consulting members of other parties. Mori's Liberal Democrats rule in a three-party coalition.

Mori's rule has been severely damaged by criticism of his handling of the Feb. 9 collision between a US Navy submarine and a Japanese fishing vessel off the coast of Hawaii. Nine Japanese are still missing from the accident and presumed dead.

Mori was told of the accident while he was playing golf, and critics have attacked him for completing the round instead of rushing to his offices to take charge of Japan's response to the collision.

Support of Mori was waning even among his own party.

In Tuesday's boycotted session, Makiko Tanaka, an LDP lawmaker, listed the myriad scandals that have jolted Mori's term in office—and found the government's response lacking.

"It is, unfortunately, difficult to say that all of explanations by the Cabinet and government were satisfying and moved our hearts," she told lawmakers.

The Yomiuri newspaper reported on Tuesday that the most powerful faction in the LDP was working behind the scenes with another coalition member to force Mori to step down.

Elections for the upper house of Parliament are due in July and people in Mori's party are worried that his unpopularity will cost them votes.

The Yomiuri said that only four of 45 upper house LDP legislators who responded to a survey said Mori should stay in power until the July polls. Twenty-one said they hope Mori steps down.

The Asahi newspaper said the government's problems ran deeper than just Mori.

"The present LDP appears to have a perspective as small as its approval rating," the newspaper said in an editorial. "The party can no longer put the problem behind it by simply replacing Prime Minister Mori." *AP*

Iraq strikes timed to avoid hitting Chinese workers

WASHINGTON—The joint US-British air strikes on Iraq were timed to avoid killing or injuring Chinese civilian and military workers who were helping install underground fiber-optic cables to significantly improve the effectiveness of Iraq's air defenses, a senior defense official said.

American and British warplanes bombed five sites in Iraq on Friday in an attack the Pentagon said was designed to degrade Iraq's capability to defend against allied air patrols over the "no fly" zone over southern Iraq.

"On a Friday you have the lowest number of people present—both Iraqis and Chinese," the senior official said Monday, speaking on condition of anonymity. "The goal wasn't to kill people, the goal was to bust up stuff."

The official said some portion of the fiber-optic network already was operating at the time of the bombing.

Marine Corps Lt. Gen. Gregory Newbold, the director of operations for the Joint Staff, told a Pentagon news conference on Friday that the targets struck by American and British planes were long-range surveillance radars and other sites that provide the command-and-control links to Iraqi surface-to-air missile batteries.

He said these facilities had helped Iraq coordinate its defenses and had resulted in numerous near misses against allied air patrols in recent weeks.

The Washington Post reported in Monday's editions that the US-British attack was carried out on the Muslim Sabbath specifically to avoid hitting Chinese workers involved in the fiber-optic project.

In confirming the Post account, the senior defense official said fiber-optic cables were being laid at some, but not all, of the sites attacked Friday by American and British warplanes. *AP*

No remains found on sunken trawler

WASHINGTON—A US Navy submersible called "Deep Drone" surveyed the ocean floor around the Ehime Maru Monday but found no remains of the nine people missing since the Japanese fishing boat sank off Hawaii in a collision with a US submarine, a navy spokesperson said.

The submersible was sent down late Sunday after another underwater robot, Scorpio II, had to be pulled out of the water for repairs, said Lieutenant Commander Conrad Chun, a spokesperson for the US Pacific Fleet said.

"Deep Drone is down there. That's all we've got operating. Scorpio II is being repaired," he said.

The Ehime Maru, found late Friday by Scorpio II on the ocean floor at a depth of some 610 meters, appears in video images to be largely intact despite its sinking after being hit by the USS Greeneville, a nuclear powered attack submarine.

Nine people from the Ehime Maru, including four high school students on a training voyage, are missing and presumed dead.

Chun said no human remains have been found by either Scorpio II or Deep Drone, which are too large to enter the fishing vessel.

The Navy is gathering information to determine whether it is feasible to raise the Ehime Maru, said Chun.

"It will be the US government that decides whether we do or not," he said.

Pacific Fleet commander, Admiral Thomas Fargo, announced over the weekend he is forming a rare court of inquiry to investigate the disaster.

Japan has been invited to name a flag officer as an adviser to the three admiral panel that will review the actions of the Greeneville's commander, its executive officer and officer of the deck.

The panel is expected to convene Thursday. *AFP*

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India downs Pakistan plane

JAMMU, India—Indian army gunners fired at two Pakistani reconnaissance planes intruding into India's air space in Jammu-Kashmir on Monday, officials said.

One plane appeared to have been shot down, said an army official on condition of anonymity.

In New Delhi, an Indian Air Force official said on condition of anonymity that the planes entered Indian territory around 0900 GMT. He said the planes seemed to be Mushaq trainer aircraft on a reconnaissance mission.

Indian ground troops spotted them and opened fire, forcing them to return, the air force officer said. The Indian military was looking for wreckage in the area but it seemed that they had crossed over into Pakistani territory, the sources said.

The "Mushaq" is a low-flying twin-seater aircraft.

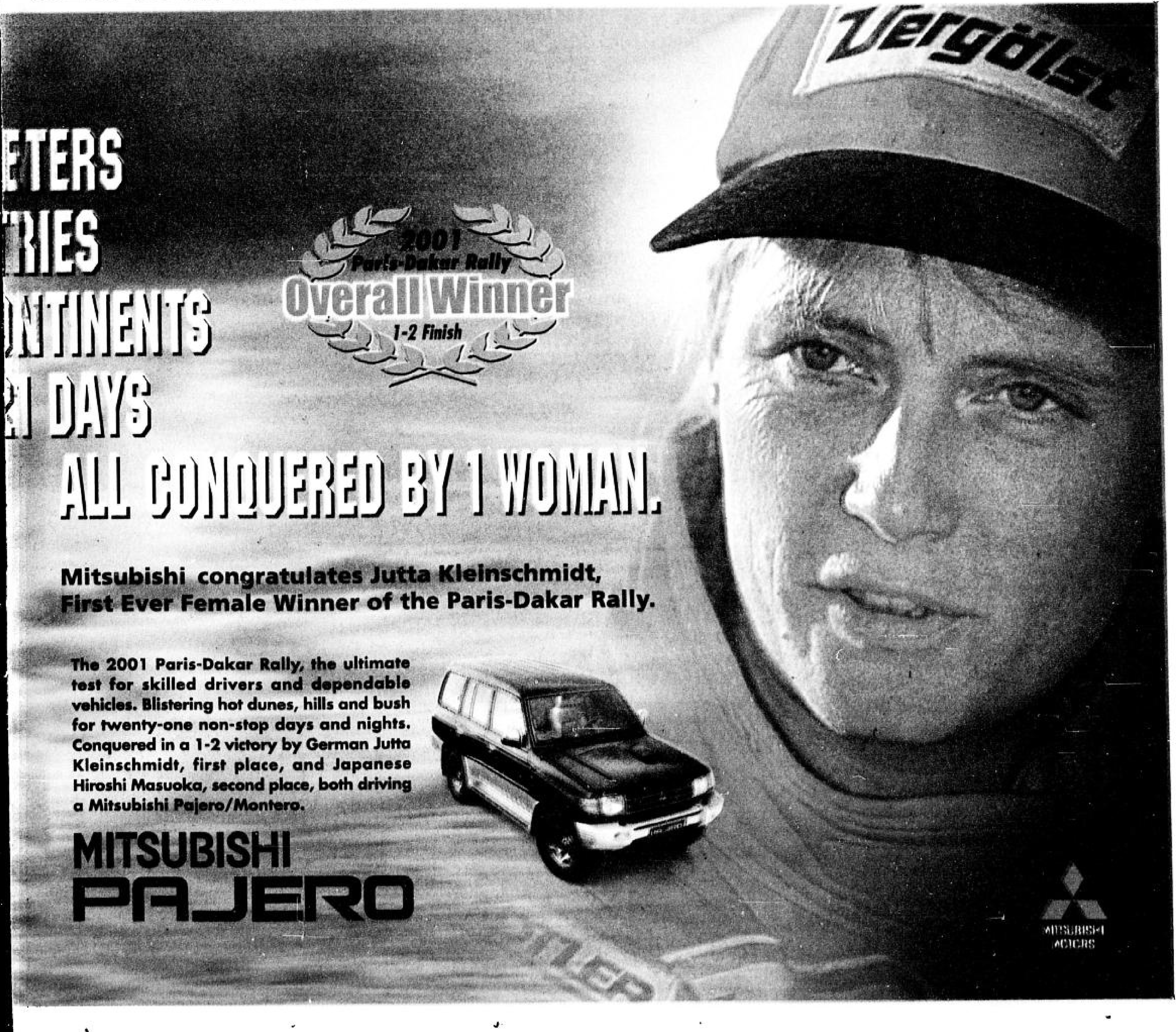
In Pakistan, army spokesperson Col. Saulat Raza denied the allegations that Pakistani planes violated Indian airspace.

"It is totally false and baseless. No such incident took place. It is all Indian propaganda," he said.

Indian guns engaged the aircraft in the Chhamb Sector, said Col. S.P.K. Singh, the northern command army spokesperson. The area is located 60 km northwest of Jammu, the state's winter capital.

India was lodging a complaint with Pakistan over the incident, the spokesperson said.

In the past, both India and Pakistan have made allegations of air space violations, but Monday's incident was the first in more than a year. *AP*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Mitsubishi congratulates Jutta Kleinschmidt, First Ever Female Winner of the Paris-Dakar Rally.

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Brazil prison uprising ends with 15 dead

SAO PAULO, Brazil—Authorities regained control of prisons across Sao Paulo state after the biggest riot in Brazil's history left at least 15 inmates dead and emphasized the growing power of the group that led the rebellion.

The uprising, which was brought under control Monday, began the afternoon before at Sao Paulo's notorious Carandiru prison complex, the nation's largest, where some of the 10,000 inmates took guards hostage and held nearly 8,000 visitors inside.

That touched off revolts in 28 other prisons in the state, in what officials said was a well orchestrated plan set in motion by an organized crime group called the First Capital Command, known by its Portuguese-language acronym PCC.

"It was a carefully planned operation by an organization that exerts its influence over inmates in other prisons," said Marco Vinicio Petreluzzi, Sao Paulo's public security secretary.

He said inmates demanded the return of 10 PCC leaders who had been transferred from Carandiru to other facilities last Friday after stockpiles of ammunition, knives and cellular phones were found in their cells.

"The uprising was clearly the organization's way of getting back at us for the transfer," said Petreluzzi, calling the transfer part of a government effort "to dismantle an organized crime group that wants to control the prison system."

After nearly 24 hours of tense negotiations, authorities persuaded the rebellious inmates at all 29 facilities to release the hostages and visitors—many of them family members who stayed voluntarily.

Television footage Monday evening showed naked inmates squatting in recreation yards while guards in body armor conducted cell by cell searches at the prisons. At Carandiru, troops suspended the searches before nightfall with officials saying they would return Tuesday morning.

Officials had made it clear they would not return the PCC leaders to Carandiru, and the massive uprising ended with little violence between police and prisoners.

Authorities said at least 15 inmates were killed: seven at Carandiru, five at the Franco da Rocha prison, two at Belem jail and one at a penitentiary in Pirajui.

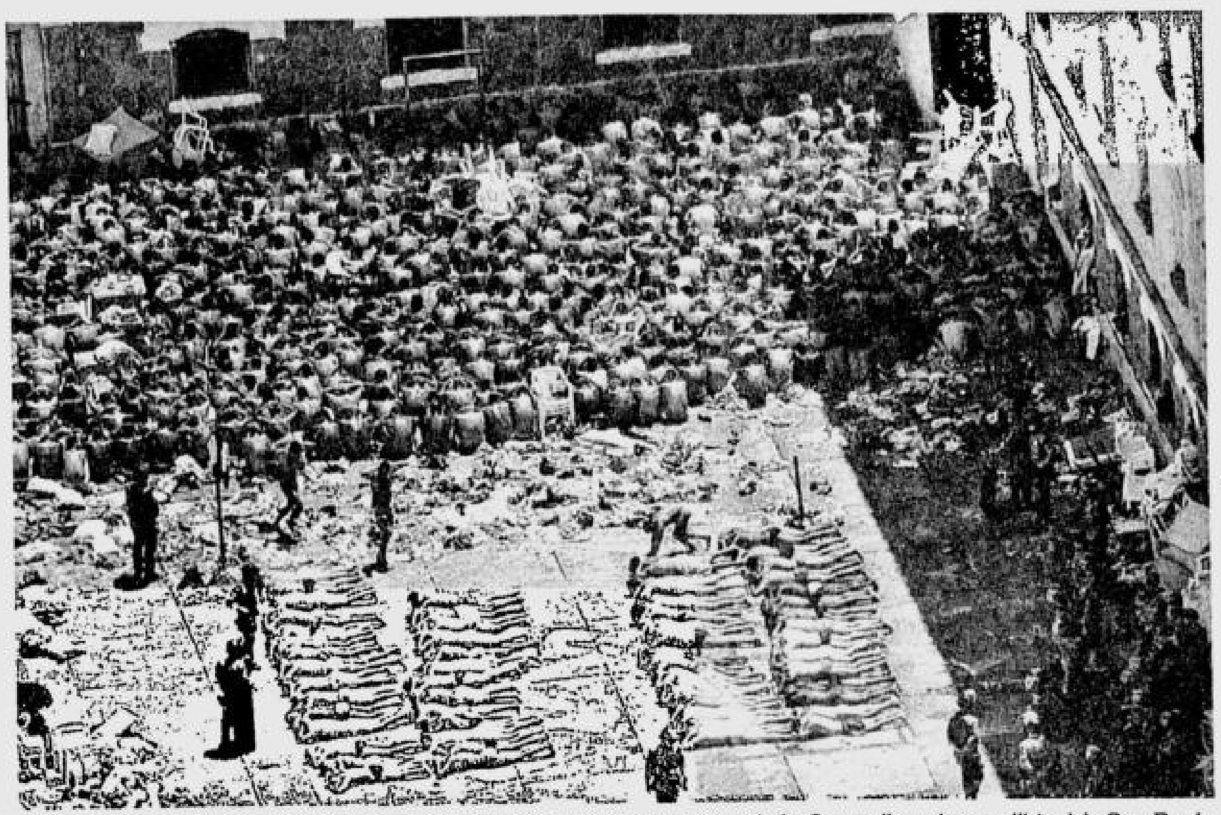
Most of the violence appeared to take place between prisoners, and there were few reports of security forces clashing with inmates. But authorities were investigating the deaths of two inmates at Carandiru who may have been shot by police.

Inmates set bedding on fire in prisons, and smoke was seen pouring from windows of Carandiru as the revolt began.

When it ended, the spotlight turned on the PCC and its increasing influence in the Sao Paulo state prison system, which currently holds more than 90,000 inmates.

Most observers say the group was formed four years ago by convicted bank robbers and drug dealers serving time in the Taubate Penitentiary, 90 kilometers northeast of Sao Paulo.

In a 1997 television interview that was rebroadcast Monday, a prison guard said the group controlled the drug trade in the state's prisons and extorted money from inmates who refuse to join them. The guard, who was not identified, claimed those who didn't pay or betrayed the group were killed. *AP*



HUNDREDS of inmates are strip-searched by riot police in the courtyard of a Carandiru prison cellblock in Sao Paulo Feb. 19. Reports said that the last of the more than 7,000 hostages in Brazil's largest-ever prison uprising were released, bringing an end to 25-hour riots.

REUTERS

WORLDBRIEFS

US, Israel start joint maneuvers

JERUSALEM—The United States and Israel started five days of joint air exercises Monday in a tense Middle East, as Israel's vanquished and divided Labor party delayed a key vote on whether to join hardliner Ariel Sharon's government. A Hamas activist was also killed in the West Bank in what the militant Palestinian group called a cold-blooded assassination by Israel. Israeli and US forces were to fire Patriot missiles in the Negev desert at imaginary targets in the air in exercises that will last through Saturday, just days after Iraq renewed threats against Israel following a US-British air raid on Baghdad. "What we're training them on is working together...in case the missiles ever need to be used," said US army spokesperson Martin Downie, who declined to say whether the missile launch operation had begun. *AFP*

Officials: Milosevic won't face UN court

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia—Top officials signaled on Monday that Slobodan Milosevic will not be tried by the UN war crimes tribunal any time soon because drafting a law on cooperation with the court may take months—and then parliament may reject it. During recent visits to Serbia and Montenegro, the two republics that comprise Yugoslavia, chief UN war crimes prosecutor Carla Del Ponte insisted that former president Milosevic and other Serb suspects be handed over to the tribunal and asserted that it has priority over Yugoslav courts. But Yugoslav officials have insisted that the country's laws ban extradition of citizens to foreign courts and that a new law would be needed to allow cooperation with tribunal, which is based in The Hague, Netherlands. Even advocates of extradition for Milosevic have pulled back in recent days. *AP*

Stanley Kramer, director-producer, 87

LOS ANGELES—Stanley Kramer, producer and director of some of Hollywood's most celebrated "message" films including "High Noon," "The Defiant Ones" and "Judgment at Nuremberg," has died. He was 87. Kramer, who had been ill with pneumonia, died Monday at the Motion Picture & Television Hospital in Woodland Hills, said his wife, actress Karen Sharpe Kramer. Kramer's films drew 80 Oscar nominations and 16 victories, including those for Gary Cooper ("High Noon"), Maximilian Schell ("Judgment at Nuremberg") and Katharine Hepburn ("Guess Who's Coming to Dinner"). As producer or producer-director, he was responsible for films dealing with race ("The Defiant Ones," "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner"), Nazi war crimes ("Judgment at Nuremberg"), fundamentalism vs modern science ("Inherit the Wind"), nuclear holocaust ("On the Beach") and the counterculture ("The Wild Ones," "RPM"). *AP*

Corruption probers grill eldest daughter of Suharto

JAKARTA, Indonesia—Prosecutors Tuesday questioned the eldest daughter of former dictator Suharto over corruption allegations involving Indonesia's state oil and gas company.

Siti Hardiyanti "Tutut" Rukmana arrived at the attorney General's office in South Jakarta accompanied by her lawyer and two bodyguards. She smiled, but made no comment to waiting reporters.

Prosecutors claim that one of her companies grossly overcharged state-owned Pertamina for work on an unfinished pipeline project.

Tutut, who is regarded as Indonesia's richest woman, was named a suspect in the case last week and has been banned from traveling abroad for 12 months.

Originally she was to have been questioned on Monday, but as on several earlier occasions, failed to show up.

Tutut's lawyers have denied that she has committed any offense and has described the charges against her as politically motivated.

Last week President Abdurrahman Wahid promised to prosecute those responsible for corruption during Suharto's 32 years in power.

Wahid ordered the crackdown after Parliament threatened to impeach him over links to two other corruption scandals.

TUTUT

Wahid has denied any wrongdoing, and a spokesperson said Monday he was willing to be questioned by police sometime this week.

Supporters of Wahid say allegations leveled against the current president are minor compared with the gross corruption that was endemic under Suharto, who along with his family has so far evaded punishment. *AP*

Clinton woes a godsend for Bush

WASHINGTON—The growing woes for former president Bill Clinton over his last-minute pardon of a fugitive alleged tax evader has made life easier for the current occupant at the White House, George Bush.

Clinton's Jan. 20 pardon of commodities trader Marc Rich has led to a mushrooming scandal and investigation, putting Bush in the catbird's seat.

The Clinton debacle has left disarray among Democrats, who already had lost their natural leader with the defeat of Al Gore in the presidential election and are now without power in the executive branch and in the minority in both houses of Congress.

Some Democrats had hoped Clinton would remain a powerful voice for the opposition in the face of Republican domination in Washington.

Although he spent the final days of his presidency attempting to leave a legacy that not soon erased by the incoming Republican administration, Clinton is now in the limelight for the wrong reasons.

His creation of eight new national monuments and nominations of nine federal judges have faded in public memory with the furor created by his eleventh hour pardon of Marc Rich.

Clinton's controversial pardon of the fugitive multi-millionaire businessman has even forced new Democratic Party chair, Clinton golf buddy and fund-raiser Terry McAuliffe, to keep a low profile.

McAuliffe has sought to keep his distance from Denise Rich, the ex-wife of Rich, who has contributed more than $1.3 million to party coffers and $450,000 for Clinton's presidential library in Arkansas. *AFP*

Fujimori: My poll bid was an error

LIMA—Peru's ousted former president Alberto Fujimori admitted Monday he made a political error by running for reelection last year and said his fugitive former spymaster Vladimiro Montesinos was a cancerous influence.

In an e-mail interview from Japan, where he is a political exile, Fujimori told AFP his bid for a third term, "in the light of what happened later"—in reference to the unfolding Montesinos scandal—was a mistake.

Montesinos "acted with double standards, betraying the president who appointed him, and Peru to make millions of dollars for his personal benefit," Fujimori wrote.

Fujimori faces a range of charges in six investigations from money laundering to drug trafficking, but is unlikely to answer the charges because Japan will not extradite him to Peru.

He resigned in November after a scandal resulting from the release of a videotape showing then-National Intelligence Service head Montesinos bribing an opposition lawmaker. Peru's Congress rejected the resignation and sacked him for "permanent moral incapacity."

Charges against Montesinos, who has been on the run since late October, include overstepping his official powers, money laundering, drug trafficking, illegal enrichment, corruption of officials, torture, murder and tax evasion. *AFP*

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Time: 5:30pm - 8:00pm
Venue: Bel Air & North Forbes Rooms
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KL police shoot amok at airport

KUALA LUMPUR—Police shot and wounded a Pakistani who ran amok at Malaysia's main international airport after reportedly being stranded there for a month, Bernama news agency said.

The 29-year-old Pakistani was shot in the leg after stabbing a security officer at Kuala Lumpur International Airport, the agency said in a report late Monday.

Local police chief Mohamad Shukri Dahlan was quoted as saying that the man, who is from Karachi, was apparently suffering from stress as he had been stranded at the airport since Jan. 16.

He was taken to a nearby hospital for psychiatric observation while the security officer received stitches to a calf wound and was discharged.

The Pakistani was a transit passenger on a Malaysia Airlines flight to Bangkok on Jan. 15 but was refused entry into Thailand for not complying with immigration rules, the police chief said. *AFP*

Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

ROUNDUP

Help for rebel's surgery

NAGA CITY—The Task Force Detainees of the Philippines has appealed to President Macapagal-Arroyo to show goodwill in the planned peace talks with communist rebels by allowing a suspected guerrilla to undergo surgery. Flor Piñon, 25, who was captured after an encounter between New People's Army rebels and Army soldiers at the Quezon-Camarines Norte border last year, has been confined at the AFP Medical Center in Quezon City with a bullet wound. The bullet is still imbedded in her body.

Juan Escandor, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

2 NPA rebels killed

TAGBILARAN CITY—Two suspected New People's Army rebels were killed after Army Scout Rangers raided a rebel camp early Monday in Sitio Lagtuan, Barangay Tanod, Anda town, some 99 kilometers east of here. Military and police authorities in Bohol suspected that one of those killed in the clash was "Kumander Roldan," head of the NPA's Guerrilla Front 4. The raid is the third clash in the Visayas between government troops and communist rebels since President Macapagal-Arroyo assumed office on Jan. 20.

Chito Fuentes, PDI Visayas Bureau

Fight vs AIDS pushed

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—The city council has proposed the promulgation of policies to prevent human immuno-virus/acquired immuno-deficiency syndrome and sexually transmitted diseases (HIV/AIDS/STD) epidemic in the city. Councilor Rowena Obeda Acosta authored the proposed ordinance, which calls for the creation of the Puerto Princesa City AIDS council that will see and study proposed measures to avert the spread of HIV/AIDS and STD. The council will be co-chaired by the city mayor and the HIV/AIDS Coordinating Council Inc., a non-government organization focused on AIDS. *Ruelle Albert Castro, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

'Jueteng' collectors nabbed

BATANGAS CITY—Police arrested the other day eight "jueteng" collectors in Tanauan and Padre Garcia towns as part of an intensified campaign against the illegal numbers game in Batangas. The anti-gambling operations were prompted by an order issued by Philippine National Police Deputy Director General Leandro Mendoza when he visited the provincial police office on the occasion of its 10th anniversary celebration on Thursday.

Mei Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

2 police personnel killed

LEGAZPI CITY—Three young men believed to be communist "hit men" on Saturday shot dead a police officer and a female police civilian employee who used to be a rebel commander. Chief Supt. Marcelo Navarro Jr., Bicol police chief, identified the victims as SPO1 Jose Florentes, who worked with the police regional human resource development office, and Beverly Marmol, 47, who was with the police public information office. Marmol, a former teacher in Masbate, had been active in peace and non-violence advocacy campaigns, calling on her former comrades to surrender and join the social mainstream.

Tony Macasinag, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Aguinaldo centennial

ILAGAN, Isabela—Officials here launched last week the centennial anniversary of the capture of Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo, the country's first president, through a tour in the province. Officials of the Department of Tourism and Isabela Historical and Cultural Council conducted a two-hour caravan from Cordon to San Pablo towns for the two-month celebration dubbed as "Sandaang Pugay Kamay kay Heneral Miong." Aguinaldo was captured on March 23, 1901 while serving his fourth year as Philippine president in Palanan, Isabela.

Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Luzon and Visayas will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms becoming widespread over Southern Luzon and Western Visayas. Mindanao will be partly cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila HI 31° Lo 23°	Baguio HI 25° Lo 14°	Tuguegarao HI 31° Lo 21°	Laoag HI 31° Lo 23°
Clark Zone HI 31° Lo 23°	Tagaytay HI 28° Lo 17°	Legazpi HI 29° Lo 23°	Calapan HI 29° Lo 23°
Bacolod HI 30° Lo 23°	Roxas HI 30° Lo 24°	Cebu HI 29° Lo 24°	Tacloban HI 30° Lo 22°
Gen. Santos HI 31° Lo 24°	Zamboanga HI 31° Lo 24°	Cagayan de Oro HI 28° Lo 23°	Davao HI 28° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Armin P. Adina, PDI Research

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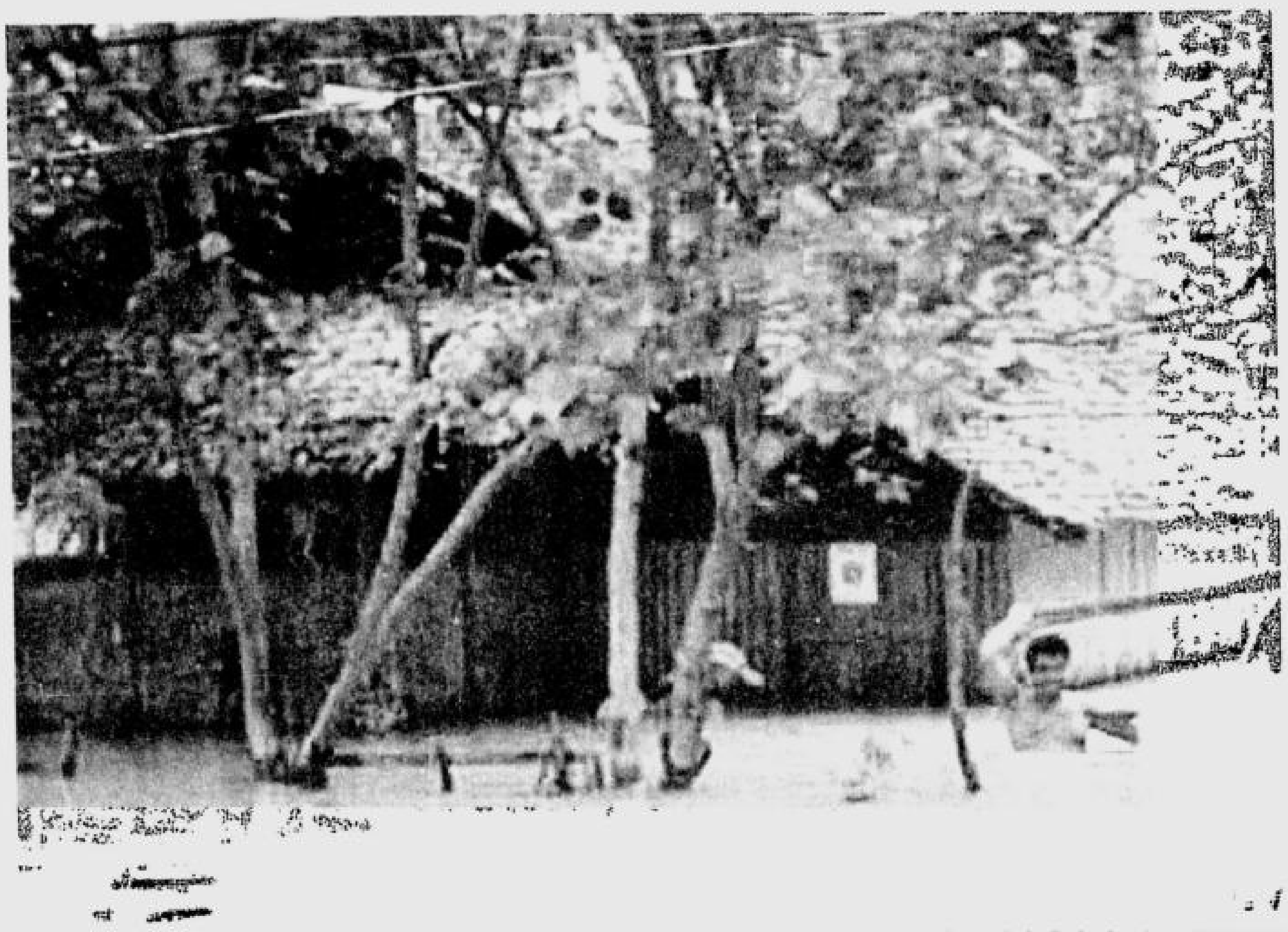
Floods remain in 5 provinces



FLOOD brought about by tropical depression "Auring" submerges houses in Barangay San Joaquin in Palo, Leyte. VEN LABRO

Execs declare calamity state

By Jowel Canuday
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY—Floods have continued to affect communities in Davao del Norte, Compostela Valley, Davao Oriental, Agusan del Sur and Surigao del Sur.

On Monday, local government officials declared a state of calamity in Davao del Norte and Compostela Valley as most of the 18 towns in the two provinces were still submerged in water.

Reports reaching the Regional Disaster Coordinating Council (RDCC) here said the houses of 76,987 persons in the seven towns of Davao del Norte were still submerged in water, as well as those of 8,531 persons in the 11 towns of Compostela Valley.

In Davao Oriental, the number of people displaced or affected by the floods in the coastal town of Caraga, went up to about 5,000 yesterday from 3,000 persons Monday.

On Sunday, separate reports from the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) and the Office of the Presidential Assistant for Mindanao (Opamin) indicated that some 102,000 people were affected by floods in nine towns of Surigao del Sur and Agusan del Sur.

Despite the increasing number of people affected by the floods, disaster officials here gave assurance that food supply was enough to sustain ongoing relief efforts.

Melcar Estela, assistant regional chief of the Office of Civil Defense (OCD), said the Davao del Norte provincial disaster response coordinating council on Monday withdrew some 1,000 sacks of rice from the National Food Authority (NFA) in Tagum City.

The OCD in Southern Mindanao will get some 300 sacks of rice today from the NFA warehouses in their respective areas to augment relief supplies.

Carmelito Lupo, Regional Disaster Coordinating Council executive officer here, said the floods were triggered by three days of continuous rains.

Lupo added that deforestation and the heavy siltation of the main river systems caused the rivers to overflow and wreak havoc on the communities and farming areas.

Disaster officials here and in Caraga initially estimated the damage wrought by the flood to crops and agriculture at P200 million.

Rains in the flood-affected areas weakened yesterday, but floodwater level remained high in most of the affected towns, raising fears of the possible spread of water-borne diseases and further damage to farming areas.

Gordon: Protect Burnham Park

By Avigail Olarte
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon asked the Baguio community, especially its officials, to be "watchful" in preserving historical places like Burnham Park.

"You should be the guardians of your heritage," he said in a press conference here Sunday.

"Daniel Burnham (Baguio's designer after whom the park was named) is one of the best urban developers in the world. He designed Baguio as a place that would open its arms to people and Burnham Park is where everywhere can walk and enjoy their time. You should protect it."

"Buses should not be allowed to park there. Baguio needs responsible people," he said, adding that students should be encouraged to help in improving the park's cleanliness.

Earlier, Councilor Delfin Balajadia told Gordon that the "city has failed in maintaining the management of Burnham."

Balajadia said the park was in a better state before its management was turned over to the city government by the Philippine Tourism Authority in 1995.

"They were running it well. Then the city wanted it back but it had no money," he said.

Gordon said the city council should decide whether the park's management should be given back to tourism authorities.

"It is the city's premier tourist spot. When you talk of Baguio, you talk of Burnham Park. It's important that we maintain it," said Councilor Betty Lourdes Tabanda.

Tourists, who came to watch the opening parades of the annual flower festival last weekend, were disappointed over the park's deteriorating state.

However, city street sweepers noted that these tourists were responsible for the heaps of litter left in the park after the parades.

Visitors noted the damaged wall of Burnham lake, the lack of toilets, crowded shops, vandalized structures, ineffective disposal management and destroyed landscapes.

"(The park) has lost its appeal," a tourist said.

The park has gained notoriety as a "pick-up" point for prostitutes due to its very poor lighting. Lack of security personnel has added to the problem.

Ignacio Estipona, city architect, said the city government has been trying to source out funds for the park's development and maintenance. He said the park is maintained through income generated from rental fees of restaurants and other facilities.

The National Parks Development Committee of the Department of Tourism, under Executive Order 224, is mandated to give the city P18 million a year for the park's maintenance.

"We have sent so many letters to them requesting the budget. So far, we only received P10 million," Estipona said.

He said the rehabilitation of the lake's retaining wall would cost P7.5 million, but the city had only P4.5 million in available funds.

Farmers advise consumers to use coconut charcoal

LUCENA CITY—Coconut farmers in Quezon have one tip to share to the middle-class consumers of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), whose price reportedly increased by P16.50 per cylinder on Saturday.

"Use coconut charcoal in your cooking. You will be helping not only your budget but also the coconut farmers," said Rene Cerilla, president of Ugnayan ng mga Magsasaka (Ugma)-Quezon.

Cerilla said most of the 25 million coconut farmers across the country had tons of coconut charcoal in their stocks.

"With the low price of coconut in the market, most of us are now into serious charcoal business to augment our meager budget," he said, adding that meat boiled over charcoal tasted better.

He noted that the prevailing price of one coconut is only 30 centavos.

"Copra price has dropped from P18 per kilo, the buying rate at the mills, to an all-time low of P6 to P7 per kilo and at P2.20 per kilo at the farm gate," Cerilla said.

"When the price of copra was still good, we did not give a damn about these charcoals. Now, every byproduct of the coconut is being taken care of," he said.

Cerilla said they disposed off their stock to the middlemen at P50 to P65 per sack, which, in turn, are sold in urban centers at P80 to P90.

Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Legal battle looms over whale show

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—A legal battle looms over the controversial Subic Bay Ocean Adventure project here, which is set to open next month its first live marine show featuring whales, dolphins and sea lions.

Both the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority stand pat on their positions regarding the SBMA's authority to issue environmental clearances.

The INQUIRER learned that DENR and SBMA representatives met Thursday last week to discuss the issue. The DENR team visited the project site at the Camayan Wharf, where the open water captive facility and show lagoon area for the whales, fur seals and dolphins are located.

Ameth de la Llana, SBMA ecology center officer-in-charge, said the DENR has questioned the legal basis for the SBMA's authority in issuing an environmental clearance for the project.

"They say it is not explicit in the law," De la Llana said, referring to Republic Act 7227, the Bases Conversion and Development Act, which also embodies the SBMA Charter. "We say it is explicit in the law's implementing rules and regulations."

But De la Llana clarified that the SBMA does not intend to "fight it out" with DENR over the issue and that the SBMA will work with the DENR in resolving the legal issues involved in the project.

Asked whether this would affect the scheduled soft opening of the marine show, De la Llana would not go beyond saying "it depends."

It is not clear if the DENR can stop the opening of the project, the SBMA being a semi-autonomous body whose authority to issue licenses and clearances to business locators putting up manufacturing plants and tourism activities has remained disputed for the past eight years.

Early this month, acting Environment Secretary Joemari Gerochi directed the Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau and the Environmental Management Bureau to look into the biosafety factors of the project and the reported construction of the facilities without the required environmental clearances.

Chito Cruz, SBMA senior deputy administrator, said RA 7227 confers on the SBMA the authority "to adopt and implement measures and standards for environmental pollution control of all areas within its territory, including, but not limited to all bodies of water and to enforce the same."

The Subic Bay Ocean Adventure is a project of the Subic Bay Marine Exploratorium (Marinex). It has come under fire from animal welfare and environmental groups, which claimed that the use and display of animals for entertainment or sports is tantamount to cruelty.

But Marinex officials said the project is not just a marine mammal show but an educational show on animal conservation and a scientific research project. *Elizabeth Marcelo, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Reelection of MSU chancellor denounced

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Faculty members and students of the state-run Mindanao State University (MSU) here have denounced the reelection of Dr. Macapado Muslim as their chancellor.

Members of the College Faculty Association, Supreme Student Council and Administrative Staff and Support Services Association have been holding protest actions and noise barrages to dramatize their stand against Muslim's reelection.

They cited the chancellor's pending administration cases filed against him with the court.

Muslim dismissed the accusations as mere black propaganda designed to discredit his leadership.

He pinpointed to Prof. Lorenzo Laroco, whom he claimed is a protégé of a former chancellor, as the one behind the "demolition job."

The students and faculty members started the protests on Feb. 7 in an effort to pressure members of the MSU Board of Regents (BOR) to junk Muslim's reelection bid.

On Feb. 12, however, the board decided to give Muslim another term.

On Feb. 15, mass actions intensified inside the campus in Barangay Fatima, about 15 kilometers from the downtown area.

Faculty members and students identified with Muslim staged their own rally to show their support for the chancellor.

Prof. Abedin Osop, the former chancellor, led the filing of graft cases against Muslim last year. The Ombudsman dismissed the cases.

But 23 faculty members intervened and filed a petition before the Supreme Court.

The protesters have asserted that the next chancellor must not only be competent but also acceptable to the community where he will be serving and whose integrity is beyond reproach.

Before the chancellor for MSU-General Santos was selected, a search committee formed by the BOR conducted a straw poll.

Representatives of the faculty members, students, the administrative staff and alumni gave Muslim a net satisfaction rating of minus-63 percent.

Prof. Maulawi Calimba, practically an unknown candidate and the only opponent of Muslim for the position, garnered more votes in the straw poll.

The BOR decision to give Muslim another term is an "utter disregard" of popular sentiment in the academe, the protesters lamented.

They also questioned the appointment of Eddie Alih as chancellor of the MSU Tawi-Tawi College of Technology and Oceanography (MSU-TCTO).

On Sept. 5, 2000, the Office of the Ombudsman convicted Alih of grave misconduct and ordered his dismissal from the service, forfeiture of retirement benefits and disqualification from holding a position in government.

On Feb. 13, 2001, the Ombudsman gave Dr. Camar Umpa, president of the MSU system, 10 days to implement the order.

But the board, during its meeting on the same date, gave Alih another term, virtually ignoring the Ombudsman's verdict.

Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau

INQUIRER Northern Luzon

JUN BANDAYREL, Editor ◼ ROLANDO B. FERNANDEZ, Bureau Chief

Biking for peace

By Tonette Orejas
Bataan

THEY did not prowl the flesh joints or drink themselves to stupor in karaoke bars. Neither did they go into unrestrained sightseeing.

Eight Japanese, later joined by 15 Japanese students, chose to see the other side of the Philippines. On bikes, they crisscrossed four Luzon provinces for five days to see the face of peace (or the dire lack of it) for the sake of solidarity with Filipinos in post-People Power II.

Stop Aggression!
Ride in Solidarity
SANTAMA-

MEMBERS of the Santama Peace Cycle prepare to hit the road on a mission of peace in Central Luzon. EDWIN BACASMAS

KAITA Saito, a day care teacher in his 20s, checked the tubes and brakes of his bike, hoping it can withstand the 200-kilometer route of the infamous Death March.

Where Japanese soldiers saw themselves in war and many found themselves on the enemy side, Saito wished to be an ambassador of peace on bike.

"I am biking for peace," the lanky Saito said, propping up his bike at Km. 0, a decrepit marker that was the starting point of the Death March that began at Barangay Poblacion in Mariveles, Bataan, in April, 1942.

Across the town loomed Corregidor Island, the last defense of American and Filipino troops under the United States Armed Forces in the Far East (Usaffe) against the Japanese Imperial Army.

Saito and seven other Japanese pedaled off last Saturday, braving the natural elements and physical stress, to discover the untold stories about "Japanese aggression" during the last war, and to reach out to people who had fallen victims to the horrors of war.

Another reason for their coming was to express solidarity with the poor in times of unfair economic relations with the rich and developing countries.

"You look at the past and the present. They are in continuity," said a professor from the Japan Lutheran College.

The route leading out of the Bataan Economic Zone in Mariveles was a 12-km zigzag and narrow climb.

Uphill climb

"Peace knows no short, straight path. It is always an uphill climb," said Ichiro Hirata, a veteran of many Santama Peace Cycles in Japan, where the popular movement began, and in the Philippines.

This year's peace cycle, hosted by the Kilusan para sa Pambansang Demokrasya, took the participants to Bataan, Pampanga and Tarlac to retrace the Death March. The trip included a visit to an old house-turned-garrison in Bulacan to meet women victims of a mass rape 56 years ago in Barangay Mapanique, Candaba in Pampanga.

The bikers listened intently to residents. War veterans and civilians, fishermen, farmers, women, children, and victims of toxic waste and Mt. Pinatubo's eruptions each had stories to tell about the past war and the "slow killing" war against the lack of land, jobs and government support.

They heard issues on illegal and dynamite fishing at the Manila Bay, low wages at the Bataan Economic Zone, the Pampanga Delta development project, the Pinatubo lahar-mitigation project and the toxic contamination in former American bases.

They said they also learned that although saddled by these issues, the residents acted to have peace by defending their access to resources and opportunities.

One was the effort of around 500 workers of Iwahori Philippines Inc. The company shut down last year, without paying P44 million in separation and benefit packages that labor officials ordered granted to workers.

The cyclists, joined by Filipino bikers, stopped at every war memorial along the route (and to their surprise, there were a few).

But this, according to them, was not to wax sentimental but to remember that militarism claimed lives and damaged societies.

Enriching encounter

Each encounter, they said, was enriching. Some wept and felt some kind of remorse upon hearing of the atrocities of Japanese soldiers. Others were profuse with apologies.

Regularly, they scribbled notes to record the disclosures of the war victims, and the situation in areas affected by projects funded by Japan's official development aid.

"The countryside is not a picture of peace," Kumiko Kato noted.

In Limay, Bataan, around big oil refineries are a colony of squatter households that depend on private companies for water supply. Children, barely in grade school, pushed carts of water drums bigger than their bodies.

In Orion, also in Bataan, they could not believe that even though the Manila Bay was very big, fishing families managed to catch only two to three kilos of fish each time they go out to the sea twice a week.

Mitsuro Kabawayashi, a novelist, came out amazed at Filipinos after the dialogues. His interpreter quoted him as saying: "*Maganda ang pagkatao ng Pilipino* (Filipinos are good-hearted)."

He was referring to the people's hospitality, their resiliency in going against the odds, and their efforts to build unity in communities troubled by threats to land and jobs.

The big cities and the Igorot

By Vincent Cabreza
Baguio City

THE HARDEST indigenous Filipino can be crushed by tormenting waves of agoraphobia (fear of public or open spaces) at the first sight of New York City's Fifth Avenue or the streets of Tokyo, said renowned photographer Tommy Hafalla.

He said agoraphobia's immensity and cold, metropolitan lines will scare the most modern Filipino traveler. But that palpable fear of big cities can also be very tantalizing, changing a worldview that now slowly cripples the generation of Igorots, he said.

This is the perspective of a new exhibit of Hafalla photographs at the Biscotti en Cocolat at Nevada Square in Baguio City this week.

His photographs of old Igorots have provided lasting anthropological and social commentaries on the dying Igorot culture.

A protégé of famed Cordillera photographer Edward Masferre, Hafalla annually hikes through the Cordillera hinterlands to document changes in Igorot lifestyles.

This year, he decided to attempt on experimental landscapes to "look at modernity and First World changes from the eyes of the 80-year-old Igorot," he said.

Called "Monochrome," the exhibit is a collection of black and white photographs of concrete tiers, skyscrapers and cold, hard urban life based on his recent trips to the United States and Japan.

Dazzling portraits

Many are dazzling portraits of New York avenues and Japanese sidewalk and subway scenes.

His favorite is entitled "A Bride in Waiting" (accompanying photo) because it featured an Asian-American woman in bridal outfit whimsically smiling in front of skyscrapers in a Fifth Avenue corner, as she waited for a transit bus.

"Had I been someone from Ifugao, I would have approached her and talked to her. Her smile was engaging. But when I did approach her, she growled back at me for invading her space. This is New York. It is so cold, it would immediately scare away the Ifugao," he said.

Another photograph dwells on a Japanese transit station where a couple of Japanese teenagers are wrapped tightly in a passionate kiss.

"That photograph is strange, because a Japanese companion actually berated them. In the Cordillera, free love is still a principle, although religion and modern values have already changed it. In Japan, kissing in public is common but not really accepted... I reflected on how this will strike a Cordilleran," Hafalla said.

Most of the portraits are wide perspectives, angled to preserve the alarming hugeness of the First World cities.

Artist Willy Magtibay collaborated with Hafalla with his sketches about the Igorot.

Familiar and comical

Hafalla pointed to portraits of Hollywood Boulevard, peopled by Charlie Chaplin lookalikes, and the interior gallery of a Los Angeles building dominated by a billboard espousing marijuana hemp, as features that are both "familiar and comical" to a traveling Igorot.

"The hemp photo is very funny for an Igorot. It says 'Hemp Revival for Skin Survival.' Marijuana is common to the mountains, and is not even a big deal there. It is just a fixture of the region. In the US, it's a crusade," he said.

"It was the first time I actually looked at these scenes. Before, when I traveled, I usually looked forward to coming home. But during my recent trip to New York, I realized how strange it all seemed. I said to myself, 'It will be even stranger to Igorots facing globalization.'"

The most recent works of Hafalla and filmmaker Kidlat Tahimik have been expounding on the impact of free trade on the pristine valleys and mountains of the Cordillera.

But Hafalla said he was influenced by recent debates about the relevance of the controversial 1904 St. Louis World's Fair on indigenous Filipinos who were shipped to the United States as sideshow exhibits.

The controversy was revived again by an independent film, called "Bontoc Eulogies," by US-based Igorot Marlon Fuentes.

Fuentes used old film stock shots by Hafalla to present a personal fiction about the abuses experienced by turn-of-the-20th-century Bontocs who traveled with an American promoter.

The film polarized a very large and influential Igorot community in the United States, Hafalla said.

He said he disagreed with Fuentes' vision and decided to sort out portraits that offer the Cordillerans a chance to examine the First World and how it relates to them.

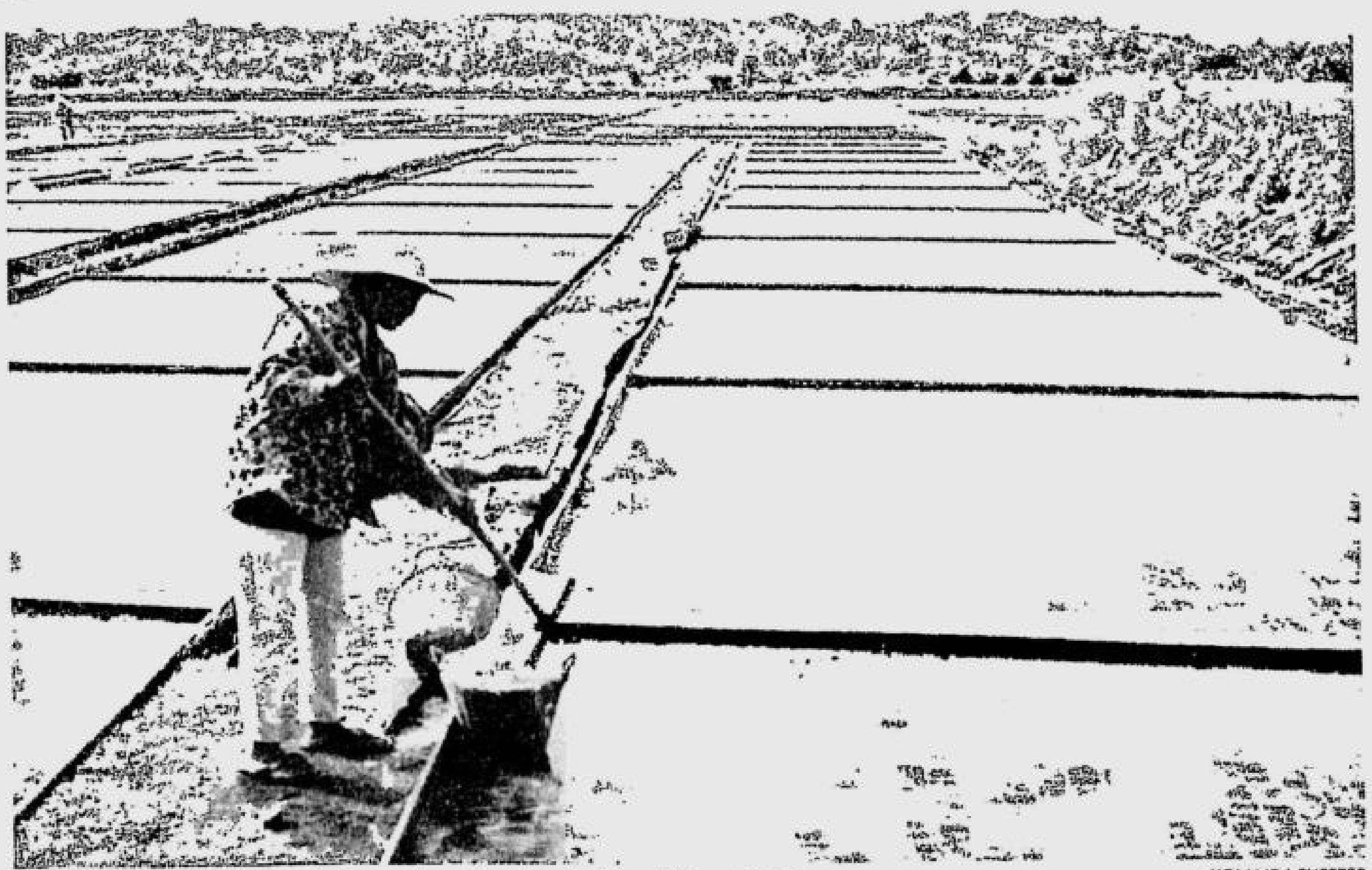
"If you are used to my photographs, my latest exhibit will startle you, because it is different. But I am telling audiences now, it is still about the Igorot culture. There are portraits of old Japanese men sitting on Tokyo benches. There are portraits of loners. I just reversed the camera, pretending that the Igorot is capturing all of these images himself," Hafalla said.

"A BRIDE in Waiting" by Tommy Hafalla

Surviving the salt mines of Pangasinan

By Yolanda Fuertes
Pangasinan

IN THE BIBLICAL tale, salt got a bad name when the wife of Abraham's nephew Lot was turned into a pillar of salt when she looked back during their flight from the burning city of Sodom.



A WORKER gathers the grains in a salt-making farm in Dasol, Pangasinan. YOLANDA FUERTES

It gave the impression that salt is what becomes of disobedient people.

The substance that makes the sea buoyant still gets some bad press today as people watching their health are told to watch their salt intake.

But with its 14,000 industrial and domestic uses, including being a medium for iodine, we simply cannot ignore the value of salt.

We are after all bombarded with Department of Health advertisements on the use of iodized salt. Under the Kalusugan sa Barangay program of Pangasinan's first lady Jamie Agbayani, packets of iodized salt are given to residents of remote villages.

Major livelihood

In Dasol and most coastal towns of Pangasinan, salt making has become a major livelihood activity for most residents.

The word Pangasinan itself means "a place where salt is made" because of the extensive salt farms in its coastal areas.

During summer, the coastal areas, as viewed from the highways, are much different from the usual sunny beaches where people have fun. Here, most beaches have been converted into salt beds where water from the sea or river is led to flow into the tiled seabed at night.

As the sun goes up the following day, the water evaporates and like magic, the salt farms are turned into a white field of salt crystals.

Ironically, while salt making is a major industry in Pangasinan, no government agency has kept a profile of it.

The Department of Trade and Industry has a listing of business names of some of those involved in the industry, but that is all. No agency knows the number of hectares devoted to salt making, the number of people benefiting from the industry, and how much income is derived from it by the town or the province.

When people see a bottle of salt on a dining table, they ordinarily take it for granted, thinking it is inexpensive and will always be there as long as the sea is salty.

True, producing salt can make one a millionaire, but one has to have plenty of money to establish a salt farm.

Dasol Councilor Zaldy Bernal, whose family operates a salt farm, says the farm is divided into what is called the *banigan*, usually a 14 by 24 feet section lined with clay bricks, and a *paalatan* or a deposit pond for salt water.

From the deposit pond, a thin line of water is coursed into the *banigan* where water evaporates. Around 3 p.m. each day, the salt is ready for harvest. On hot days, a *banigan* can produce two *kaing* (woven basket) of salt, but on cloudy days, only a basket can be produced.

Laborers have to work fast because salt becomes hard if not harvested immediately, and raking it becomes difficult. The sun-dried salt, locally called *barara*, is then stocked in a makeshift warehouse, waiting for buyers.

The substance undergoes eight to nine hours of cooking to soften and whiten it. The highways of Dasol are lined with huts where salt is cooked and sold to traders.

Bonifacio Versoza, 50, has made salt cooking his family livelihood.

"*Minana ko sa magulang ko* (I inherited this from my parents)," he says. In a small hut along the highway, which also serves as his family house, sacks of salt are stacked and two stoves continuously burn. In a corner is a big tub where the salt is soaked to remove impurities before it is cooked.

"It's a hard life," his wife Evelyn, 50, complains.

Working amid two big smoke-emitting stoves can really take its toll on the health of salt cookers.

"But we know nothing else as means of livelihood," the Versozas say.

Through hard work, they were able to send two sons to college while one is helping them with the family business.

Imported salt

There are at least five big players in the province's salt industry, plus a score of small-scale ones.

Since salt making depends on the weather, for most salt farm workers, it is a part-time job. It is undertaken from November to May when the clouds and rain are sparse.

The salt beds are not really useless during rainy days as these are converted into ponds of *bangus* (milkfish) and *tilapia*. As for the workers, they either work at the fishponds or find jobs elsewhere.

It is, perhaps, because we do not enjoy the sun the whole year round that we do not produce enough salt for the country's needs.

Salinas (IM) Corp., operator of the country's largest salt farm Pacific Farms Inc. (PFI) in Bolinao town, imports tons of salt yearly.

Johnny Khong Hun, Salinas president, says that while the long coastal area of the country could mean abundance of salt, "we actually import more than we produce."

"The surge of salt importation threatens the remaining local industry," says Khong Hun, whose 500-hectare farm in Bolinao produces some 40,000 metric tons of salt yearly.

That the sea is salty is a common knowledge but unknown to many, the sea sometimes loses its salinity.

Pacific Farm manager Lita Aransaso explains that the El Niño phenomenon this year affects the productivity of the salt farm.

"We usually harvest commercial salt daily, but now the harvest is every other day because of low salinity," she says.

GMA told AFP chief derby 'destructive'

(From page A1)

To the question of whether she found the current jockeying for the post divisive, if not annoying, Ms Macapagal said: "They can jockey all they want, but I will make the decision."

Reyes himself said the President's decision on the matter "will be supported by the Armed Forces because we have a deep bench."

He said the Board of Generals, which he heads, had yet to make a recommendation to the President.

Reyes also said the talk about wrangling over the position "creates the impression that there is . . . intrigue when in fact there is no such intense jockeying or anything."

Festive, not restive

Executive Secretary Renato de Villa, a former general, said the jockeying was not causing divisiveness in the military ranks.

"They are not restive, they are just festive," he said. "They are feasting on the qualification and disqualification of the candidates."

But one of the contenders, AFP Vice Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Jose Calimlim, is not exactly feeling festive.

In a statement, Calimlim assailed "some of those who are jockeying intensely for the position" for supposedly sowing the intrigue that former President Fidel Ramos, his province mate and ex-boss, was backing him.

Calimlim described himself as Reyes' "logical successor" by virtue of his being vice chief of staff.

"If I am being considered, it will be because of my seniority . . . and my professional performance in the various positions of leadership I have occupied in my rise up the military ladder," he said.

"I do not have any influential groups behind me," he added.

Ramos himself told the INQUIRER in a handwritten note that contrary to published reports, he was not backing Calimlim.

"I have not made any recommendations to (the President) as (choosing the next AFP chief of staff) is her sole prerogative," Ramos said. "However, if asked by the President, I will not recommend (Calimlim) because others have better combat/command records."

Calimlim said he would be "thankful" if named to the post.

"But if I am not chosen, I intend to continue serving as the AFP vice chief of staff until my scheduled retirement in November," he said.

He also said he did not think the President "will yield to pressures from retired military officers"—an apparent swipe at retired officers who allegedly want Marine Lt. Gen. Edgardo Espinosa installed as Reyes' replacement.

Calimlim served as the last commander of the Presidential Security Group during the Ramos administration.

He maintained the post among other military positions during Joseph Estrada's term.

Free hand

Biazon said he was avoiding making statements that would tend to endorse any of the contenders.

He said the President should be given a free hand in making her choice, but suggested that she be guided by the criteria of seniority, track record, military record and military professionalism.

He pointed out that the President should not reward military officers for their participation in Edsa II because this would politicize the military.

He also said seniority must be respected to prevent demoralization in the military ranks.

Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said that in making her choice, Ms Macapagal should be guided by what would be best for the country and the military.

Pimentel also said he saw no reason for Ms Macapagal to preempt Reyes' retirement by announcing his replacement immediately.

Positioning

The other contenders for the post of AFP chief of staff are said to enjoy the support of certain persons and groups.

Aside from a number of retired officers, Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, whose exposé on "jueteng" signaled the beginning of the end for Estrada, and the Council for Philippine Affairs (Copa), a private group identified with former Tarlac Rep. Jose "Peping" Cojuangco, are said to be backing Espinosa.

Military insiders say Reyes is lobbying for his protégé, Army chief Lt. Gen. Diomedio Villanueva.

It was Villanueva who replaced Espinosa as chief of the Southern Command early last year, after Reyes sacked the Marine officer.

Calimlim, Espinosa and Villanueva are considered the top three contenders. But AFP Deputy Chief of Staff Jaime de los Santos is also in the running, allegedly with the support of Justice Secretary Hernando Perez and Paul Dominguez, one of the President's advisers.

According to insiders, De los Santos' media handlers have devised a campaign to discredit and even induce public squabbles among his stronger rivals.

Also considered natural but long-shot candidates are Air Force chief Lt. Gen. Benjamin Defensor Jr., Navy Flag Officer in Command Rear Adm. Guillermo Wong, and Southcom commander Lt. Gen. Gregorio Camiling.

The feverish jockeying has earned the scorn of the retiree-dominated Association of General and Flag Officers (Agfo), a group representing both retired and active star-rank officers.

In a statement, Agfo chair and president Ernesto Gidaya, a former brigadier general, took note of comments in the newspapers "that tend to malign or place prospective candidates in a bad light."

"We consider it unprofessional and a departure from the norms of a military organization for officers junior to the chief of staff to suggest, lobby for or recommend who shall be his replacement," he said.

In an interview, Gidaya said the President should make her choice known "as soon as possible."

"An early announcement will preclude rivalries from getting out of hand," he said.

In a separate interview, former Agfo vice chair Manuel Oxales, said all the candidates were highly qualified for the post.

"The appointment is the sole prerogative of the President," said Oxales, a retired brigadier general. *With a report from AFP*

Erap Time piece turns off Gloria

(From page A1)

referring to Estrada's article in the Feb. 19 issue of Time Magazine.

The disgraced President described People Power II that ousted him from power as "swift justice indeed—as in a lynching."

"It repudiated the very essence of due process enshrined in the Constitution. Mob rule catapulted Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to the presidency last month," he said in the Time article.

The article, featured in the section called "Viewpoint," was titled, "If this can be done to me, who is safe?"

Estrada said the ballot box remained the best gauge to decide the people's will in a democracy.

"That was badly compromised by the events of last month. So was due process. Can one imagine the House impeaching me, the Senate closing the impeachment trial and the Supreme Court allowing the Vice President to take her oath as acting President without notifying me, before and after the event, as it were," Estrada said.

"If this can be done to me, who is safe?" he asked.

Estrada said that People Power II had set a "very dangerous precedent."

"It has irrevocably damaged the democratic institutions that Edsa I restored in the 1986 people-backed military mutiny that ended 20 years of dictatorial rule," the ousted President said.

"After Edsa II, the process of changing duly elected leaders may depend on the mob and a few fence-sitting and ambitious generals breaking the chain of command at a crucial moment," Estrada said.

"Future leaders may be removed by a noisy minority through rallies and street protests and the withdrawal of support by the military," he said. "Predictability and stability seem even farther now than ever."

Text generation

He said People Power II was hatched in the "boardrooms and gated villages of Metro Manila and backed by a text-messaging generation."

"The masses who support me cannot afford texting facilities or go to Edsa to watch a risk-free marathon rock festival. The vacationless classes were too busy toiling for a living," the deposed President said.

He noted that family assets had been summarily frozen without any hearing, and that hold-departure orders for him, his relatives and several others had been issued without due process.

Various charges, including multiple plunder, have also been filed against him with the Office of the Ombudsman.

He insisted that he was not a "jueteng" protector. Neither did his accounts contain dirty money, he said.

"I swear on my father's grave that never in my entire career in public life have I taken a single centavo of taxpayer's money. This I intend to prove but I never got my day in court," he said.

Passing mark

One month into her presidency, Ms Macapagal received a passing mark from Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr.

"In terms of stability, I'd give her at least a passing mark. In terms of attracting investments to the country, she should also be given a passing mark," Pimentel said when asked to rate the President.

But Pimentel thinks she flunked in the area of peace and order.

"She should strive to do more in that area because I understand kidnapping is still fairly rampant and bank robberies are still happening," he said.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon declined rating Ms Macapagal's first 30 days in office, saying she should be given more time to complete her Cabinet and implement her own programs.

But Biazon disagreed with the fair rating that Ms Macapagal had given herself.

"How can you give credence to self-evaluation by anyone?" Biazon asked.

Two administration senatorial candidates also gave a favorable assessment of the President's first month in office.

Although the new administration was still "trying to put its act together," it did very well in appointing certain people to key positions, according to Sen. Franklin Drilon.

He also praised "its sensitivity to public opinion" on certain issues.

But Sen. Sergio Osmeña III said that there was one appointment he was objecting to, that of Winston Garcia, president and general manager of the Government Service Insurance System.

At the weekly Bulong Pulungan forum at the Westin Philippine Plaza, Osmeña said that the new GSIS chief had no experience in banking insurance. *With reports from Juliet L. Javellana and Christine Avendaño*

Nat'l security post to Golez, DOH to Dayrit

(From page A1)

Ms Macapagal also said that she had appointed Health Undersecretary Manuel Dayrit as health secretary, and that she had assigned Trade Secretary Manuel "Mar" Roxas II to help "oversee" the Department of Energy until an energy secretary is named.

Dayrit is a physician, medical epidemiologist and medical health care manager by profession.

The President likewise announced that she had accepted the resignation of Felimon Uriarte Jr., whom she had earlier reappointed science secretary.

She also said acting Defense Secretary Eduardo Ermita might be out of the running for the defense portfolio because she wanted him to concentrate on the peace process.

"Ed Ermita is doing a very good job as acting defense (secretary), except that later we have to separate his role in the peace process (from) defense because there might be a natural contradiction (there)," the President said.

She said Ermita would have to work on the peace process "full time" when peace negotiations with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front start in earnest.

At the annual homecoming of the Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association Saturday in Baguio City, the President said outgoing Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Angelo Reyes was a "very strong" candidate for the top defense post.

Asked yesterday when she would name the new defense chief, Ms Macapagal said: "Well, . . . I am waiting for the right person to be available."

Reyes is due to retire on March 17.

Not only traditional

In a press conference held about four hours after Ms Macapagal announced his appointment, Golez said his new job would encompass not only the traditional aspects of national security but also others that would impact on it.

"National security is all-encompassing because we must remember that governments fall (and) countries come into a very critical situation not because of military problems but because of such problems as economic problems (and) social unrest," he said.

"The dollar-peso exchange rate has an impact on national security, (as do) the trade situation, the oil situation and food security. These are the things that we would like to look into instead of the traditional military aspect," he added.

Golez also said the campaign against illegal drugs, especially *shabu* from China, would be one of his priorities.

He said drugs comprised a "major" national security problem as far as policy was concerned.

"We all know that China is the major source of *shabu*. At least 95 percent of it comes from China, and this is something that must be addressed because of its serious effects on Philippine society," he said.

He pointed out that the illegal drug trade was a major source of corruption, especially in the local levels of the national police hierarchy.

He said that it affected criminality, and that drug money could be diverted to fund other security problems in the country.

Golez also said he would want the government to go after the Abu Sayyaf and to push the peace process with the MILF.

"The Abu Sayyaf, for me, is where the hard position is required. This is a criminal outlaw band. (Its members) have no political agenda, as shown in the way they conduct themselves," he said.

"The full force of the law, the police and military should be unleashed against them," he added.

Golez also said the forces supportive of ousted President Joseph Estrada would be treated as a national security issue if they use their money to destabilize the government.

A three-term congressman, Golez is a product of the public school system.

He entered the PMA and then the USNA in Annapolis before serving in the Philippine Navy, where he reached the rank of captain.

Saddened

The President said that she was saddened with Uriarte's decision to resign, but that she had "no choice but to accept" his decision.

"I guess he feels he doesn't need the job that much," she said.

With the top science and technology post vacant, Ms Macapagal said Malacañang would have to "evaluate the other nominees again."

In a statement, Uriarte said he was "unable to accept" his reappointment because of his "present assignment with the United Nations Environment Program to review and finalize the Asia Pacific Environment outlook 2000."

He also cited his coming appointment at the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok, Thailand, as an expert to prepare the Northeast Asian Subregional Program on Environmental Cooperation.

He recommended acting Science Secretary Rogelio Panlasigui as his replacement.

The employees' union at the Department of Science and Technology forwarded a complaint against Uriarte to the President.

They accused him of attempting to use $120,000 in savings from a scrapped engineering and science education project.

The complaint was supposedly in the form of a resolution expressing the union's reservations about Uriarte's reappointment.

The President said Uriarte "did not want to get involved in controversies."

3 more

With Uriarte's resignation, the President has three more vacancies in the Cabinet to fill. The other two are the top posts of the Departments of Energy and of Environment and Natural Resources.

She said she would "take time to choose" an environment secretary because "almost every nominee has an important objection against him or her."

One nominee is Isabela Rep. Heherson Alvarez, whose appointment is being blocked by Senate President Aquilino Pimentel because of his earlier "selective log ban" position.

"I will take as long as I need until I find somebody who is accepted almost as a unanimous consensus," the President said.

"Anyway," she said, "we can work through the undersecretaries and important bureau directors." The President noted that she had twice chosen energy secretaries who turned out to be "legally disqualified."

Her first choice was Jesus Alcondro, who was technically qualified for the job but legally disqualified because he had worked in the energy industry for the last two years.

Alcondro was appointed president of the National Power Corp. instead.

Ms Macapagal's next choice was Cora de la Paz, who has been auditing energy-related firms.

"So that disqualifies her too," she said.

The Commission on Elections is at least now complete, with Florentino Tuazon filling up the last vacant commissioner's post.

Tuazon is a former Makati regional court judge and former legal counsel of the Development Bank of the Philippines.

And contrary to what was earlier reported, Viviana Singson-De Leon was named chair, not board member, of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office.

De Leon is a sister of Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson. *With reports from Armand N. Nocum and Gerald Lacuarta*

GMA stops military operations vs MILF

(From page A1)

longstanding rebel demand for a withdrawal of government forces from MILF camps that they overran during the administration of ousted President Joseph Estrada.

Even so, MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu cautiously welcomed Ms Macapagal's announcement of a unilateral ceasefire, saying his group's "focus of attention is the peace talks."

Ms Macapagal said her initiative was aimed at creating "the proper environment for the reconstruction of peace talks," a sharp departure from Estrada's policy of all-out war against MILF rebels who are fighting for a separate Muslim state.

"With the full consensus of the Cabinet, I have today issued an order to the secretary of national defense and the Armed Forces chief of staff directing the suspension of military offensives vis-à-vis the MILF," the President told a televised news conference marking her first month in office.

"Let us heal and build but above all let us be one," Ms Macapagal, who was installed in a military-backed Edsa People Power II that ousted Estrada on Jan. 20, added.

She voiced hopes the unilateral ceasefire would last "for a very long time" as she urged the MILF "to reciprocate early enough by positive moves in the same direction."

"I hope that the MILF will take this move as ample proof of the sincerity and determination of the government to take the high road to peace," she said.

Ms Macapagal warned that further MILF attacks would be met with "calibrated responses to preserve peace and order."

Earlier Tuesday, the military reported that about 30 MILF guerrillas burned down equipment and disarmed two security guards at a construction site in Ipil, Zamboanga del Sur.

On Monday, government forces killed an MILF guerrilla in a clash on the island-province of Basilan, also in Western Mindanao.

Back channels

Still, Ms Macapagal said her administration had established "back channels" of communication with the MILF, adding the group was "quite positive" about renewed peace talks.

In a TV interview, Kabalu said the MILF would wait for a "formal communication" on the President's order. He did not say whether MILF rebels would also hold their fire.

In her news conference, Ms Macapagal said the open-ended unilateral ceasefire with the MILF would enable about 500,000 people displaced by fighting in Mindanao to return to their homes "and repair their shattered lives."

She said the truce would also allow the immediate implementation of rehabilitation and development projects in the war-ravaged region.

On Monday, Canada pledged to support her peace initiative with an offer to pour into Mindanao nearly $10 million in development aid.

Less expensive

"I say building peace would be less expensive than supporting an all-out war," Ms Macapagal said.

Estrada abandoned years of painstaking government negotiations with MILF rebels last April when he decided to mount a protracted military campaign against them.

Accusations of truce violations from both sides ahead of planned peace talks preceded the heavy fighting that resulted in the military's capture of more than 40 MILF bases scattered across Mindanao.

The MILF pulled out of peace negotiations and its leader, Salamat Hashim, declared a jihad or holy war.

Salamat and other MILF leaders were later accused of launching terrorist attacks, including five bombings that killed 22 people and injured more than 100 others in Manila last Dec. 30.

Ms Macapagal stressed that despite the peace offer, the Constitution "should prevail always and everywhere," effectively ruling out any ceding of territory to the rebels in any negotiations.

"There shall be no return of territory to the MILF," she said.

Ms Macapagal said she hoped this particular MILF demand would not hamper the proposed talks, stressing "this is just a starting point for negotiations."

Abu Sayyaf

She specified that the ceasefire only covered the MILF and made no mention of the Abu Sayyaf, a smaller Moro separatist group in Western Mindanao which seized dozens of foreign and Filipino hostages on Jolo Island and nearby Malaysian tourist islands last year.

The government has long dismissed Abu Sayyaf rebels, who are still holding an American and a Filipino hostage, as mere bandits.

The declaration of a ceasefire came a day after Ms Macapagal ordered the release of 49 political dissidents, including 20 suspected MILF guerrillas linked by the police to the bombing of two Manila shopping malls last year.

Earlier, she appointed presidential assistant Jesus Dureza as the head of the government panel that would negotiate with the MILF.

Ms Macapagal said she was waiting for a report from her presidential adviser on whether she should also halt military action against communist rebels who have been fighting the government since 1969.

More than 120,000 people have been killed in the Moro separatist war since it started in 1972, while more than 40,000 have been killed in the communist struggle for a Marxist state. *With reports from AP, AFP and Reuters*

7 PAOCTF agents summoned by NBI for Dacer abduction

(From page A1)

Two of the PAOCTF members yesterday snubbed the NBI invitation.

Lawyer Samuel Ong, NBI Metro Manila chief, confirmed that two PAOCTF members invited for questioning yesterday did not show up. The others were asked to come to the NBI in the succeeding days.

Ong told reporters that the seven PAOCTF members conducted a raid near Dacer's house at Sun Valley Subdivision in Parañaque City on Nov. 21 last year.

"Three days before the abduction of Dacer and his driver (Manuel Corbito), these PAOCTF men raided a house near his (Dacer) residence," Ong said.

Ong refused to explain the connection between the raid and Dacer's abduction.

But an NBI insider said the raid could have been a cover for an intensive surveillance on Dacer.

Earlier, two witnesses, both street vendors, claimed that a man, wearing a police uniform hidden by a shirt, was one of those who abducted Dacer and his driver at the corner of Zobel Street and South Superhighway in Manila.

This led the NBI to suspect that the Philippine National Police hierarchy at the time had something to do with the disappearance of Dacer.

At the impeachment trial of ousted President Joseph Estrada in January, Perfecto Yasay, former Securities and Exchange Commission chair, testified that Dacer's disappearance had something to do with the BW Resources Corp. stock scandal.

Yasay said that Dacer had traced the paper trail of the country's worst stock market scandal.

At the trial, it was revealed that Estrada himself owned BW Resources. Former Finance Secretary Edgardo Espiritu testified that Estrada had told him that he profited from his BW holdings.

Ong said the non-appearance of the two policemen amounted to an expressed waiver on their part to air their side.

He said it was up to the NBI Legal Division if the agency would press charges against the two.

On Monday, top NBI officials refused to comment on a report that the agency arrested last week four policemen linked to Dacer's disappearance.

Ong and lawyer Carlos Caabay, NBI deputy director for Special Investigation Services, neither confirmed nor denied the story, citing a gag order from NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco.

The officials said Wycoco issued a memorandum barring NBI officials and agents from giving reporters information on the Dacer case, the Dec. 30 bombings in Metro Manila and the mansions of Estrada's mistresses.

"Only the director can comment on the case. In the absence of the director, the assistant director (Diego Gutierrez) can talk (about the case)," Ong said.

Wycoco reportedly said that the order was aimed at preventing the suspects in the three high-profile cases from keeping track of the developments in the NBI investigation.

Rejuvenated Shell tangles with Pop

Nestea volleyball on at CCP

EVEN the roaring thunder and the driving rains won't stop the country's top collegiate spikers from getting to Boracay as the Nestea Beach Volleyball University Challenge starts today at the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

Over a hundred school organizations from almost 50 colleges and universities will brush aside the rainy weather and wallop each other out in the eliminations, which will extend up to Feb. 25, before bringing their act in Boracay Island, the venue of the semifinals and finals on April 21-22.

Defending women's champion Sheryl Tumayao and Jennifer Buhawe of powerhouse San Sebastian will return to the site of their countless battles while last year's titlists in the men's division Marvin Gotangogan and Gino Macailan of Letran won't be around to defend their plum.

Without them, the pressure of recapturing the crown rests on the shoulders of their fellow Letran spikers, seeded first after Gotangogan and Macailan's did their come-from-behind feat.

Chiefly sponsored by Nestea, the tournament is the kickoff leg of the Nestea Beach Volleyball series with the First Nestea Beach Volleyball National Open (March 8-10) and Second Nestea Asian Beach Volleyball Women's Championships (March 30-April 1) also on tap.

DANNY Seigle of San Miguel Beer (right) surveys the field while being harassed by Tanduay Gold's Jeffrey Cariaso during their PBA game Sunday. The Beermen won, 96-79.

BETOY JOHNSON

PBA STANDINGS

	W	L		W	L
San Miguel	4	0	Pop Cola	2	2
Red Bull	3	1	Alaska	1	3
Shell	3	1	Sta. Lucia	1	3
Ginebra	3	2	Mobiline	1	3
Purefoods	2	2	Tanduay	1	4

GAMES TODAY (Philsports)
5:15 p.m.—Sta. Lucia vs Purefoods
7:30 p.m.—Pop Cola vs Shell

SHELL Velocity coach Perry Ronquillo voiced out what his team has been feeling for more than a year now: "We are tired of losing."

The Turbochargers have displayed that sentiment the past few weeks with the way they beat strong teams to join the PBA All Filipino Cup leaders.

"It's been a long while since we occupied the higher rung of the standings," said Ronquillo, whose team is behind only to San Miguel and tied with Red Bull at 3-1. "Maybe my players are feeling the same way too."

That's especially true for Benjie Paras, who languished in sick bay for almost the entire 2000 season and has been making his presence felt lately, turning in the best numbers for Shell. In their 93-86 win over Tanduay, Paras had 23 points, three assists and four steals.

In the first game, Sta. Lucia Realty hopes to jump in contention against skidding Purefoods at 5:15 p.m. The Realtors only have one win to show in four games, while the Hotdogs are coming off a two-game losing run after winning their first two outings.

"My team now has a lot of promise. They are bigger, younger and quicker than my 1999 team (which won two titles in four consecutive finals stints)," Ronquillo added. "But whether it has what it takes to win, that remains to be seen."

"If you put together the championship experience they (Panthers) have, it would be far more than what we have," said Ronquillo." *Marc Anthony Reyes*

Cause and effect

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

IN 1993, a group of national athletes marched to Malacañang to protest the wrongdoings committed by sports officials, including top pashas of the Philippine sports Commission. The protesting athletes were led by multi-titled swimmer Eric Buhain, legendary sprinter Lydia de Vega and bowling Hall of Famer Bong Coo who were members of the ill-fated Philippine delegation that saw action—and finished a dismal third overall—in the Southeast Asian games held in Singapore.

Due to widespread clamor, the Senate conducted an investigation into the athletes' complaints which included favoritism, sexual and physical harassment, misspending of public funds, poor living quarters, inadequate training facilities and politicking.

Subsequently, the investigation resulted in the reorganization of the PSC, triggering the resignation of some of its top officials.

I am recalling that protest rally because national athletes and sports officials also staged a smaller version of that protest action recently, denouncing the Philippine Olympic Committee for "intervention" in NSA affairs while supporting former basketball star Quintellano "Tiny" Literal, a central figure in the ongoing power struggle between him and Freddie Jalasco in the Basketball Association of the Philippines.

As an aftermath of that rally, the POC executive board passed a resolution which warned all NSAs (national sports associations) officials, coaches and athletes that they could face sanctions from the POC Ethics Commission "if they take actions that may destabilize and discredit any NSA and the POC."

As expected, Literal opposed the resolution.

"Everybody has the right to assemble. The resolution is a suppression of the freedom of expression," said Literal, who claims he is the legitimate president of the basketball association having won in a recent snap election which ousted Jalasco. However, much to Literal's chagrin, the POC remains to recognize Jalasco as president of the BAP, a position which did not sit well with him (he had since then sued the POC) and several national athletes such as basketball player Rommel Adducul and weightlifter Jaime Sebastian (who had earlier staged a protest rally together with sports officials), denouncing the POC for "meddling into the internal affairs of the NSAs."

As a result of and, in order to end the staging of another rally such as that participated in by national athletes and NSA officials, the POC passed the resolution, concerned with the negative action aimed at disrupting efforts by the POC to settle complaints or disputes according to regular procedures as stated in the POC Charter.

"But it is us, the athletes, who are being affected," said Sebastian, winner of more than 20 gold medals in the SEA Games in the mid-1970s and the 1980s, in defense of their action. "The players can't train properly and concentrate on their training because of the leadership struggle."

Nonetheless the POC said, "It is disappointed by the manner and behavior of such individuals who have disregarded the process laid out by the Olympic body for handling such complaints and deprived the parties concerned of the opportunity to present their side in the proper forum."

On the court case filed by the group of Literal, Dayrit said: "They are killing the sport. I don't think that's right." To which Literal retorted: "Going to court is a last resort. We felt betrayed, they were clearly biased."

Who is right? Only time will tell. Meanwhile, sports waits and worries.

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SPORTS TRIVIA. In the second World Basketball Championship held in Rio de Janeiro in 1954, the United States won the title, beating Brazil, 62-41. While the Philippines, banking chiefly on the proficiency of Carlos Loyzaga and the cunning of Lauro Mumar. Championship was staged in an open-air football stadium in Santiago, Chile, in January 1959. Brazil emerged champion, with the US finishing second and the Philippines eighth. To meet Fiba (International Basketball Federation) requirements, host Chile built a special wooden floor at one end and temporary seating on one side of the football field. It was in Chile where the ticklish two-China issue exploded. Heated debates marred the sessions. During the games, the Soviet Union (a top favorite to win the title) and Bulgaria supported mainland China by refusing to play Taiwan in the embattled tournament. As a result, Fiba declared the teams of Russia and Bulgaria losers by forfeit and subsequently deprived of all the points they scored in the final round, bringing them down to the cellar of the championship round standings.

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For inquiries, call fax/phone (044) 933-1214.

Conquistarose

WHAT CAN I SAY

Bebo Quiros

ON 16 December 2000, at Victoria Park in the suburbs of Adelaide in South Australia, a 7-year-old gelding named Super Lad, broke the 1300m track record in winning the Durbridge Stakes (LR) in 1m.16.11sec. This was Super Lad's ninth win. He has earned Au$139,550. His victories include another stakes race, the VRC Four'n Twenty Stakes at Flemington, in Melbourne, Victoria. Super Lad has won over distances ranging from 1200m-1700m. He is by Conquistarose out of Flame Tree by Whiskey Road and is a member of the last New Zealand crop of his sire prior to export to the Philippines. He is line-bred 3f x 3m to Nijinsky II, just like his Philippine-bred paternal sibling, Jinska.

Conquistarose is a 1984 bay stallion by 1982 American Horse of the Year, Conquistador Cielo out of the 1981 American champion 3-year-old turf female, De La Rose by Nijinsky II. He is the winner of US$487,055 including the Group I Young American Stakes. This is the ubiquitous cross of Mr. Prospector-line horses out of Nijinsky II-line mares that has proven itself many times over. Conquistarose began his stud career in 1987 in New Zealand at the famous Haunui Farm of the Chitty family where he stood for seven seasons. To-date he has sired 159 Australasian winners of Au$6million including 10 stakes winners. Philippine-raced stakes winners, Graceful Lady and Milrose, are part of this tally as they were bred in New Zealand.

Already, Conquistarose is proving to be a promising broodmare sire. In recent months, he has become damsire of the NZ SW Sir Clive, the first Bigstone (Last Tycoon) stakeswinner in the southern hemisphere. In the Philippines, he is damsire of 1999 champion 2-year-old High Roller (Perfect Halo) and SW Milza (Khozaam).

All in all, Conquistarose's success, both here and abroad, has proven quite a significant return on investment for the syndicate of owners who have believed in him from the start. Other than ourselves, the syndicate is composed of the Mamon family, the Cayco family, the Lim family, Henry Cojuangco, Tito de Jesus, Joy Rojas, Jun Paman, Mario Tan, Mar Tirona, Noel Campos, Uncle Dick Katigbak, Marlon Cunanan, Danny Estanislao, Francis Trillana, Nonoy Niles, and Johnny Tionloc. At the moment, Johnny Tionloc is probably the happiest among the group. The Philippine Sportswriters Association has named Silver Story, a Conquistarose juvenile colt Johnny bred, as its Horse of the Year for 2000. The Philtobo will have done likewise at its Gintong Lahi Awards Night held on 20 February 2001 at the Peninsula Manila.

Conquistarose ranks 2nd on the Philippine General Sires List for year 2000, with 31 winners from 37 runners, with earnings of P17,604,097.21. Aside from the outstanding Silver Story, his other stakes winners were the top class 3-year-old fillies, Rosa Morena and Midnight Rose. He also finished champion 2-yr-old sire for the year with 8 winners from 9 runners and earnings of P6,023,311.24. The average Conquistarose runner earned P475,786.41 for year 2000.

From 1995-2000, Conquistarose sired 54 local and foreign-bred runners of which 47 crossed the finish line first 256 times in 1629 starts (228 seconds, 184 thirds and 184 fourths for a 52% in-the-money tally) and total earnings of P38,962,775.94 and average earnings per runner of P721,532.89.

Conquistarose is the leading living sire as perennial NSF champion sire Sal's Shuttle has been deceased for quite some time now. The Conquistarose syndicate expect their pride and joy to top the list within the next two years. There were 30 foals in 1999 and 26 foals in 2000. 62 mares were bred to him in 2000. And as of today, there have already been 20 mares bred to him since the barn doors were open to syndicate members on 1 February 2001. This is going to be another good year for "Cookie," as he is fondly called by all of us who care for him at Mesa Stud Farm in Canlubang, Laguna.

3RD PHILTOBO GINTONG LAHI AWARDS YEAR 2000

TWO YEAR OLD COLT	-SILVER STORY
TWO YEAR OLD FILLY	-SPEED GODDESS
THREE YEAR OLD COLT	-WIND BLOWN
THREE YEAR OLD FILLY	-HAZMOORE
TOP OLDER HORSE COLT	-CHARLEMAGNE
TOP OLDER HORSE DISTAFF	-GOLD EDITION
CHAMPION SPRINT HORSE	-DIAMOND'S DOLLAR
HORSE OF THE YEAR	-SILVER STORY
IMPORTED HORSE	-COLEGIALA
JOCKEY OF THE YEAR	-JONATHAN B. HERNANDEZ
TRAINER OF THE YEAR	-RICARDO PAMAN, JR.
STALLION OF THE YEAR	-SAL'S SHUTTLE
BREEDER OF THE YEAR	-JUANITO TIONLOC
BROODMARE OF THE YEAR	-NORTHERN EDGE
HORSE OWNER OF THE YEAR (New)	-PATRICK UY

Shark alive sans Yap

BY DENNIS U. EROA

LIFE without MVP Roger Yap remains rosy as ever.

Thus assured coach Leo Austria of newly crowned PBL Challenge Cup champion Shark Energy Drink yesterday during the PSA Forum at Holiday Inn-Manila.

Austria's observation was echoed by team owner Raul Panlilio and manager Jesse Chua, who led the triumphant Power Boosters in gracing the weekly sports forum sponsored by Agfa Color and Red Bull.

Others present were assistant mentors Dayong Mendoza and Jun Galubin, physical therapist Randell Maglantay and players Ryzal Castro, Jing Rodriguez, Ken Gumpenberger, Chester Tolomia, Egay Echavez, Warren Ybañez, Gilbert Malabanan, Rico Limare, Erwin Velez, Bong Salvador and Caloy Garcia.

PBL Chair Dioceldo Sy also guested, thanking the media for its support which led to the success of the league. "Never in the history of the league saw such a large crowd. I am confident that with the help of the media, the PBL will continue to scale new heights."

The six-foot-flat Yap won handily as MVP as Shark stunned Welcoat, 4-3, in the best-of-seven championship series at the Makati Coliseum.

Yap's rivalry with Welcoat's main man and amateur basketball player of the year Ren Ren Ritualo was closely-watched all throughout the series.

Austria admitted that Shark's plays were centered on the acrobatic, high-leaping Yap. But he noted that Yap alone did not win the series for the Power Boosters.

"Everybody contributed his share," said Austria. "Roger will be missed but we have enough good players to fill up the void."

Panlilio expressed confidence that his charges will continue to be a force to reckon with come the second Chairman's Cup scheduled on March 24.

"The team is raring to make another push for the championship. Winning is all about teamwork," said Panlilio.

Chua added "the success of the team isn't anchored on one player alone. All the players, including the benchwarmers, are MVPs for me. The victory will spur the team to work harder and seek another title."

Pacquiao foe arriving today

THE LONG wait is over.

Challenger Tetsutora Senrima finally hits the town today to face WBC international superbantamweight champion Manny Pacquiao on Saturday at the Ynares Sports Center in Antipolo City.

The San Miguel Beer-backed 12-round encounter dubbed "Rumble in Antipolo" is promoted by Gabriel "Bebo Elorde" Jr. in coordination with Rizal Governor Casimiro Ynares Jr. and supported by Royal Palm Hotel.

Originally, Senrima was scheduled to plane in last Feb. 11.

Senrima, 31, is sporting a 19-4-3 win-loss-draw record, with 10 Kos.

He said he would capture Pacquiao's belt to earn a world ranking.

Pacquiao is currently rated No. 3 by the WBC 122-pound division being held by Willie Jorrin of the USA and also No. 3 in the IBF with Benedict Ledwaba of South Africa as champion.

"I want both his crown and his world ranking," said Senrima, who will arrive with his manager Keitoku Senrima and Chonmi Ok.

Meanwhile, promoter Elorde announced the judges for the Pacquiao-Senrima fight. They are David Chung of Korea (Referee-Judge), Bruce McTavish and American Gene del Bianco.

Tuñacao confident of victory

BY JUNE NAVARRO

MALCOLM Tuñacao believes he will not fall prey to Pongsaklek Wonjongkam of Thailand when the two clash for the World Boxing Council flyweight crown on March 2 in the Thai province of Phichit.

"I don't like predictions but definitely I won't be his 37th Filipino victim," said Tuñacao in Tagalog during yesterday's PSA Forum at the Holiday Inn.

The 2000 PSA pro boxing athlete of the year said the Thai "is not invincible." He noted that Filipino Jerry Pahayahay defeated Wonjongkam in 1994.

That setback was Wonjongkam's only loss to a Filipino in a 37-1, win-loss record, with 22 knockouts.

"I know that it will be tough, but I will climb the ring in terrific shape," said Tuñacao, who leaves for Thailand on Saturday.

Sporting an 11-0-1 win-loss-draw card spiked with seven knockouts, Tuñacao aims to prolong his reign in the WBC 112-pound title he earned by stopping Medgoen 3K Battery in seven rounds in Udonthani, Thailand, last year.

That victory, which had Tuñacao suffering a deep cut above the eye, earned him a special mention in the May 2001 issue of The Ring magazine, the acclaimed Bible of boxing.

Friendship Games approved

DAVAO CITY—Mindanao government and sports leaders unanimously endorsed the hosting of the First Friendship Games as the initial project to realize the fruits of their plans and proposals in the region's first sports summit which ended on an upbeat note here Tuesday.

To achieve this goal, one of the major resolutions adopted by the summit delegates was to create a Mindanao Sports Council composed of recognized sportsmen and women in the region to conceive, coordinate and handle the event.

The delegates agreed to recommend to the Philippine Sports Commission, which organized the two-day consultations, names to appoint to the council.

"While their enthusiasm is still high we wanted the summit participants to come up with a concrete activity where all of their inputs and ideas will be realized. Organizing the First Mindanao Friendship Games is the ideal vehicle to that end," said Commissioner William Ramirez.

NATIONAL CHESSFEST

Mat Defensor (center) inks an agreement to act as project director of the 2001 National Chess Championships set from March 24 to April 8. From left are Willy Abalos, Grandmaster Eugene Torre, Sammy Estimo and GM Joey Antonio, the defending champion. The chessfest aims to put up a total pot of P1 million.

NCA finals set

THREE entries posted perfect 3-0 slates yesterday and set the pace entering tonight's four-cock finals of the NCA 7-Cock Derby at the jampacked Araneta Coliseum.

The leaders after three fiercely fought elimination matches were RT 114 Geran Mapalad, PBRJ Binangonan and surprising New Guagua Coliseum. Geran and Skyland, another upcoming entry, figured in the money race, scoring 2-1/2 points in this star-studded derby hosted by Pampanga's well-known Madlambayan brothers, Jun and Rudy Jingco, [illegible] and Tanggol Eusebio and Jojo [illegible].

Navymen, Airmen clash at Rizal

AFTER posting impressive victories on opening day, defending champion Navy and Air Force will take on each other as they jockey up for the lead at the resumption of play in the sixth Paba Battle of the Champion today at the Rizal Memorial Baseball Stadium.

The Navymen and the Airmen are set to take the field at 2:30 p.m., with both squads eyeing no less than win No. 2 and the chance to move on top of the four-team double-round tournament.

Last Saturday, Navy scored its first kill when it subdued arch-rival Army Jungle Fighters, 10-7, despite the on-and-off performance of ace pitcher Orlando Binarao, who showed signs of rust due to lack of play.

Elder brothers Joel and Manolito lend a helping hand for the younger Binarao as with the broad-shouldered Joel, who slammed the season's first homerun in the fifth inning while Manolito gave up a hit and a walk in a one and two-third inning relief job.

Air Force, on the other hand, is not about to be intimidated by its more illustrious rival as it will try to prove its 3-2 win over former titlist Philab last weekend is not a fluke.

NBA results
Cleveland 85, Chicago 84; LA Clippers 111, Detroit 106, OT; Milwaukee 102, San Antonio 98; Utah 114, Boston 99. *AP*

Guyana honors WBA champ

GEORGETOWN, Guyana —The South American country of Guyana declared Monday a holiday in honor of Guyanese boxer Andrew Lewis, who won the WBA welterweight title in Las Vegas the night before. President Bharrat Jagdeo ordered a national holiday to celebrate the first world boxing title won by Guyanese national. On Sunday night, Lewis stopped American James Page at 1:13 of the seventh round to take the vacant WBA welterweight crown. *AP*

SPORTS

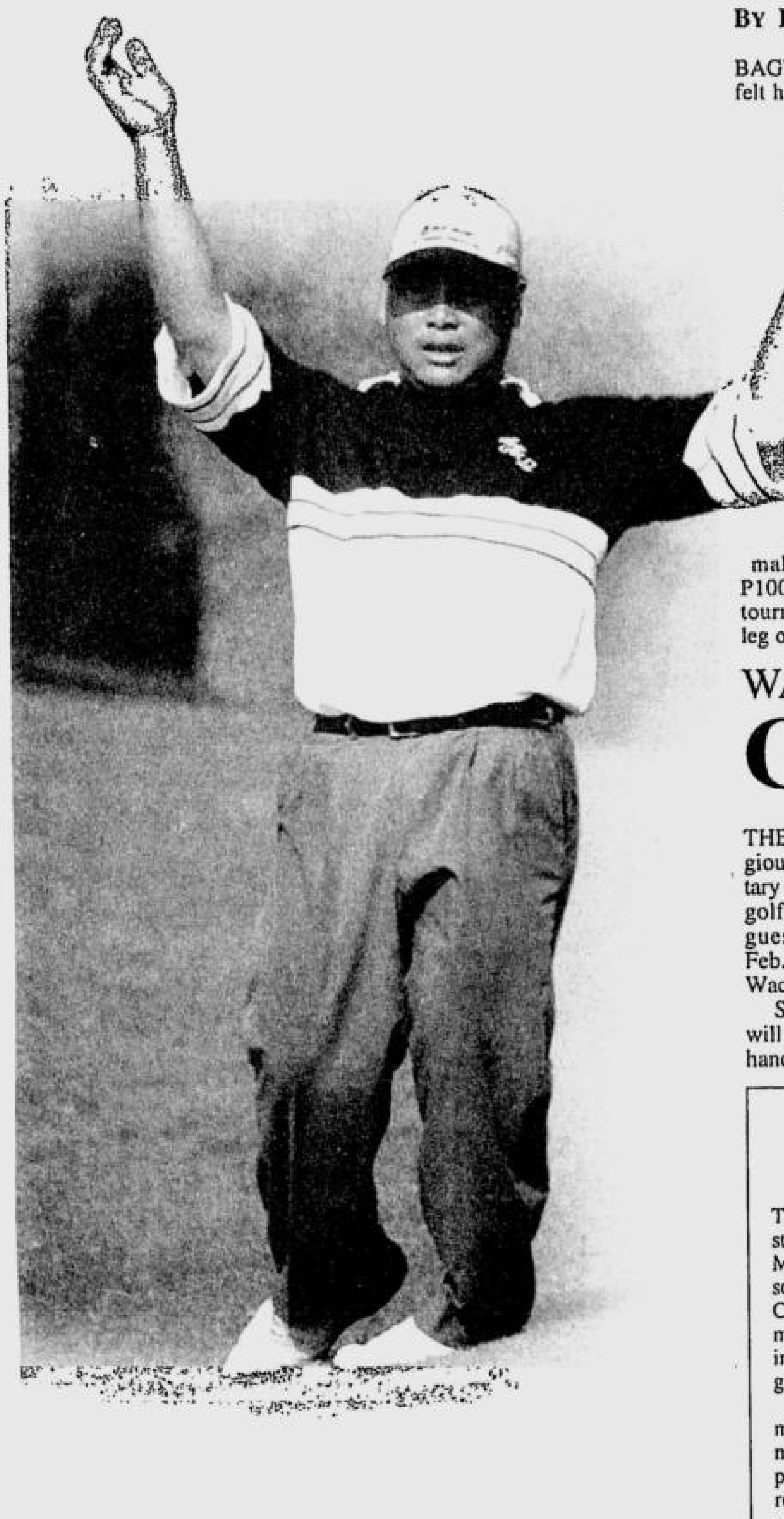
AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ▨ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Wrist surgery for Ratliffe

PHILADELPHIA—Philadelphia 76ers center Theo Ratliffe will have surgery Wednesday to repair a stress fracture in his right wrist. Ratliffe was placed on the injured list Feb. 13 after being diagnosed with the injury five days earlier. He appeared in 50 games this season, averaging 12.4 points, 8.3 rebounds and 3.47 blocks per game. He leads the NBA with 187 blocks. *AP*

CAMP JOHN HAY OPEN

Sinfuego prevails at last



JESS YUSON

SINFUEGO: Breakthrough win.

BY ROY LUARCA

BAGUIO CITY—Richard Sinfuego felt his breakthrough win coming in the Camp John Hay Open. And the hunch turned right.

Birdieing three of the first four holes, Sinfuego went on to shoot an eight-under-par 60 and nip three-round leader Tonokazu Yoshinaga and ace-maker Tony Lascuna for the P100,000 champions purse in the tournament serving as the second leg of the Philippine Golf Tour.

Sinfuego felt victory was in sight when he nearly clinched the inaugural MRT-Southwoods Open two weeks back.

He felt it Saturday when he again led in the first round, duplicating his pro debut in the 1997 Philippine Open here.

He felt it yesterday, when he woke up refreshed and invigorated by the chilly, fresh air of this city of pines.

Though he was three shots down at tee-off, Sinfuego was at ease on the second flight. He knew Yoshinaga, Lascuna and Ramon Brobio would be trading shots ahead.

Fact is, Yoshinaga was so concentrated on Lascuna, who canned his first ever hole-in-one on No. 7, that he came to know that he needed a closing birdie to force sudden death with Sinfuego right there on No. 18.

The Japanese failed as his 7-iron drive landed at the back edge of the green and settled for par.

Right after Yoshinaga missed the tying downhill putt, Sinfuego, who was watching near the clubhouse with a horde of supporters amid a drizzle, raised his arms in triumph. Four years of waiting after a spectacular amateur career was over. He is a pro champion just like many time batchmates—Lascuna, Rey Pagunsan and Ruben Sasutil—in the Philippine team.

"*Ang gaang ng* feeling, *maganda ang* touch *sa* putting. I knew things are going to turn out OK," said Sinfuego, who dedicated the victory to his wife Shiela and daughter Kay.

Counting his earlier rounds of 65-72-65, the 29-year-old Sinfuego pooled a 10-under 262, while Yoshinaga finished at 64=263 and Lascuna 64=264.

Yoshinaga and Lascuna didn't mind losing.

"It's OK. Good play," said Yoshinaga, whom Sinfuego caught up with back-to-back birdies on 14 and 15.

"*Puwede na akong mamatay,*" joked Lascuna after sinking the ace. "It's Sinfuego's turn to shine."

Sinfuego's 60 tied the tournament-best of Elmer Salvador made earlier and the course-record set by Rodrigo Cuello in 1999. That time, however, the Camp John Hay layout was a par 69.

Sherwoods Hills in Trece Martirez will be the third stop of the series being backed by College Assurance Plan, MRT and CJH Development Co. from March 22-25.

The scores:

262—R. Sinfuego (65-72-65-60)
263—T. Yoshinaga (65-65-69-64)
264—T. Lascuna (72-67-61-64)
267—R. Gibson (68-66-68-65); R. Pagunsan (71-67-64-65)
268—D. DL Santos (72-66-66-64)
270—C. Villaroman (69-66-67-68); L. Rempojo (69-67-66-68)
271—R. Brobio (66-66-69-70); M. Pucay (71-68-68-64);E. Salvador (71-72-68-60)
272—N. Kempis (68-66-68-70); R. Cabajar (67-70-67-68)
274—B. Magada (71-68-66-69)
275—E. Sanchez (70-68-70-67)

WACK WACK EAST COURSE

Governor's Cup fires off Friday

THE SEVENTH leg of the Prestigious Governor's Cup, one of Rotary International District 3830's big golfing events for Rotarians and guests, will be held on Friday, Feb.23, at the fabled east course of Wack Wack Golf and Country Club.

Some 100 Rotarians and guests will vie for top honors in the various handicap classifications.

More than 30 clubs have already signified their intention to participate in this one-day event including previous leg winners RC Parañaque Central, RC Parañaque Southwest, RC Makati-Paseo de Roxas, RC Las Piñas, RC Makati and RC Makati-Ayala.

The Rotary Club of Makati Greenbelt and the Rotary Club of Makati are co-hosting the event. Both host clubs have prepared an array of major raffle prizes and giveaways, not to mention the coveted Governor's Cup trophies to be awarded the winners.

Providing major support to the event as hole sponsors are San Miguel Corporation and Kolins International, Philippines.

The organizing committee composed of RC Makati Rotarians Chito Cantada, Lito Casal, Roland Young and Al Joaquin from RCM Greenbelt will be assisted by Wack Wack general manager, S.P. Malbarosa, also a member of RCM. Awarding ceremonies will be held at the club's brand-new 8,000 meter clubhouse.

Carapiet elected Asian 'moto' president

THE PHILIPPINES scored a milestone with the election of National Motorcycle Sports and Safety Association (Namssa) director Macky Carapiet as Asian president for motocross in the successful staging of the-2001 FIM-UAM Congress recently at the Dusk Hotel.

Carapiet, a long-time motocross race director, got the majority votes of the 40 nations presidents and leader delegate representatives of 18 FIM affiliated sports federations.

Among the participating countries are Thailand, Japan Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, India, China, Chinese Taipei, Macau China, Hong Kong China, Korea, Mongolia, Iran, UAE, Kuwait and Sri Lanka.

"This is a big victory for the country. Namssa considers this as a fulfillment of the country's bid to play a major role in the international motorcycling community," said Carapiet.

"Hopefully, this will also be the first step toward the dream of putting the country in the international racing map. We'll try our best to convince FIM-UAM officials to stage legs of international road race and motocross events here in the country," he added.

Also elected to the management council were Indonesia's Bambang Gunardi as president of the Asian Road Racing Commission; and Korea's Jun Yong Shin and Indonesia's Dolly Nasution as vice presidents.

Namssa president Ken Falco welcomed the delegates of the Union Asian Motocyclisme (UAM)-Asian management council, which approved the schedule of international continental road race and supercross events for the Asian region.

Supporting the successful event were the Federation Internationale Motocyclisme de Suisse, Philippine Sports Commission (PSC), Philippine Olympic Committee (POC), Dusit Hotel and the Motorcycle Industry of the Philippines (MDPPA).

Sports stars gracing Olympic store launch

OLYMPIC World, the biggest and most innovative athletic-leisure outlet located at the Alabang Town Centre, will be launched on Saturday amid pomp and pageantry.

The 750-square-meter store is a tribute to the Olympic Games, not only because it carries rack after rack of the biggest and most revered names in athletic and leisure apparel, footwear and accessories but it also aims to give shoppers the Olympic spirit which is about friendship and excellence.

Shoppers can also meet their idols personally. There is also Mount Olympus, Olympic World's in-store rock-climbing wall and a half-court for basketball fans which will challenge the endurance of athletes and non-athletes alike.

Olympic World's opening is also expected to draw raves from sports fans. Just like in the Olympics, there will be the lightning of the torch and other events featuring the country's top athletes.

Pop Cola's Johnny Abarrientos and Rudy Hatfield, Alaska ace Rodney Santos, Noli Locsin of Tanduay, La Salle and UAAP rookie of the year Mike Cortez, triathlon champion John Abdul, marathon man Roy Vence, climber and mountaineer Yolina will also join in the symbolic run before the opening which starts at 1:30 p.m.

Olympic World will also pay tribute to sporting greats, who are part of Olympic history.

Olympic World is the flagship store of the New Cinema and Entertainment Complex of the Ayala Alabang Town Centre.

Manila Rotarympics unfolds Sunday

METRO Manila's differently abled athletes will strut their wares from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday with the staging of Rotarympics 2001 at the Philsports Arena.

According to Rotarympics chair Alex Cureg and PR committee head Leopoldo "Pol" Daz, competition will be conducted in basketball, soccer, volleyball, running, javelin, shot put, goal ball and showdown.

The event is organized by the Rotary Club of Diliman headed by Manuel Sabalza in cooperation with Philspada, led by Mike Barredo and Dr. Lydia Buendia.

"We appeal to the media and generous sponsors for support because by staging these games, we hope to make people aware of the sports activities undertaken by differently abled competitors," said Cureg during yesterday's PSA Forum sponsored by Red Bull, Agfa Color and McDonald's at Holiday Inn.

Cureg praised powerlifter Adeline Dumapong for winning a bronze medal in the Sydney Paralympics last year. "We're proud of her and, in staging the Rotarympics, we hope to produce more Dumapongs."

The Rotarympics began in 1981 to mark the celebration of the International Year for Disabled Persons. Since then, it has been held annually. The high point came in 1996 when the Rotary Club of Diliman was cited by the Apolinario Mabini Awards Committee of the Foundation for the Rehabilitation of the Disabled Inc. during ceremonies at Heroes' Hall in Malacañang with former President Fidel V. Ramos as guest of honor and speaker.

Paeng rules Makati fellowship tourney

FOUR-TIME World Cup Champion Paeng Nepomuceno lived up to expectations when he won the Makati Bowlers Club Fellowship Games at Coronado Lanes.

The back-to-back victory followed Paeng's victory at the Pearl Classic only last week. Paeng said: "I'm glad that at least my game is coming back. This is good preparation for me to defend my World Bowling Masters title I won in London in 1999."

This was the last time he played on international tournament before he was sidelined after undergoing wrist operation right after winning his world title. "I am still using a 14-pound ball instead of my usual 16 pounds," Paeng added as he still suffers a slight pain in his wrist during his games.

Slated to leave for London next month for the 2001 version of the World Bowling Masters, Paeng said he has a good chance at the title despite some drawbacks.

Paeng rolled a scratch score of 1362 with games of 243-267-237-193-232-201 and carried a minus 10 pins per game handicap to his first place win. Charlie Tupaz scored 1222 for second place while Ben Cuneta rolled 1214 for third place.

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

BASKETBALL: NBA - Miami Heat vs New York Knicks at 9 a.m. (r- 8 p.m.) on ESPN
US NCAA—Villanova Wildcats vs West Virginia Mountaineers at 1 p.m. and Big Ten Conference Wildcard Game tomorrow at 12:30 a.m. on ESPN
GOLF: PGA Buick Invitational, Day Three at 8 a.m. (r) on Star Sports
TENNIS: WTA Open Gaz de France Finals at 9 p.m. (r) on Star Sports
Watson's Water Challenge tomorrow at 12:30 a.m. on Star Sports
HORSE RACING: Racehorse Digest at 8 a.m. (r) on ESPN
BOWLING: PBA Parker Bohn III Empire State Open at 11:30 a.m. (r) on ESPN
TABLE TENNIS: ITTF English Open, Semifinals #1 at 10 a.m. (r), Semifinals #2 at 10:30 p.m. on Star Sports
MOTOR SPORTS: Max Power at 6 p.m. on Star Sports
SOCCER: Spanish Football League at noon (r) on Star Sports
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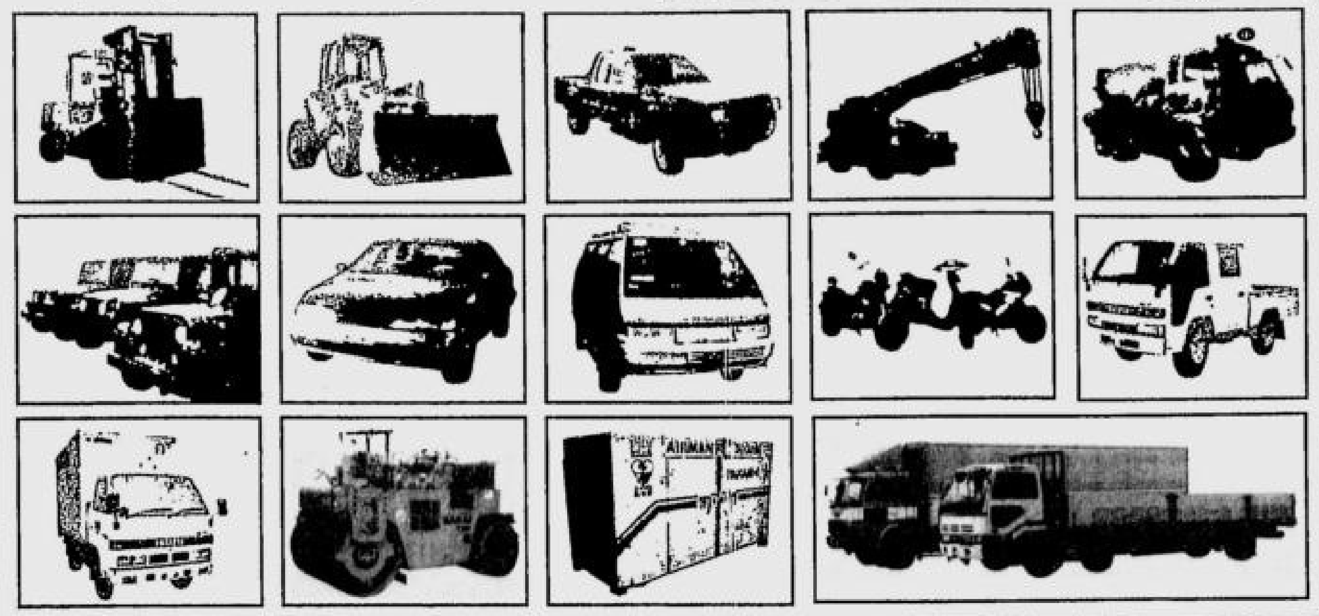

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▩ Panic at US Embassy A18
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METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

▩ Policeman beaten up for paying bus fare with P1,000 bill A18
▩ Comedian vs jukebox singer A18

Laarni's dad loses cemetery land case

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE FATHER of Laarni Enriquez, one of the mistresses of ousted President Estrada, has lost his court battle over land inside a Caloocan City cemetery after a regional trial court dismissed the case for being in an improper venue.

Regional Trial Court Branch 126 has no jurisdiction over the case of plaintiff Alfonso Enriquez, of Barangay Socorro in Cubao, Quezon City, and defendant Eternal Gardens Memorial Park Corp., whose office is in Makati City, according to Judge Luisito Sardillo.

The judge said the case should be filed either in Quezon City or Makati.

Enriquez filed a petition for "specific performance, judicial confirmation of instruments, partition, damages, injunction, temporary restraining order, and declaration/cancellation of deed of sale" against Eternal Gardens and Lilia Sevilla and her husband Jose Seeling.

Enriquez filed the case after the Supreme Court ruled that Eternal Gardens should pay Sevilla and Seeling for a 1.35-hectare land, which has been converted into the Chinese portion of the cemetery.

Case records showed that Eternal Gardens bought the land from Central Dyeing and Finishing Corp. in the early 1980s, not knowing that the land was involved in an ownership dispute between Central Dyeing and Sevilla.

In 1997, the Supreme Court upheld the ruling of a lower court that Sevilla owned the property and ordered Eternal Gardens to pay her for it.

But Enriquez surfaced after the decision of the high court and claimed he was joint owner of the property on the strength of a memorandum of agreement between him and Sevilla.

LAARNI'S DAD/A18

Phillip: Jinggoy not financing my campaign

SALVADOR

By Leah Salterio

ACTOR Phillip Salvador yesterday denied that his close friend, San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Ejercito, would bankroll his political campaign in the May elections.

Salvador is running for vice mayor of Mandaluyong under the Partido ng Masang Pilipino (PMP) banner. He said he is also a guest candidate of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP) and the Nationalist People's Coalition (NPC).

"But even if it's Jinggoy who would finance my campaign, I don't see anything wrong with that," Salvador said. "He will be there to sup-

PHILLIP/A18

Boy, 15, shoots self to death

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE FAMILY and friends of Ryan Isip, 15, did not have a clue as to what drove him to end his young life in Valenzuela City on Monday.

Isip, a third-year student of Children of Mary Immaculate College and resident of Old Tamaraw Hills, Barangay Marulas, allegedly committed suicide by shooting himself in the temple with a .38 revolver at about 9:30 a.m. Monday, said Insp. Salvador dela Cruz of the Valenzuela Police Station Investigation Bureau.

The gun was licensed to Isip's mother, Remedios.

Isip's eldest sister Ronalyn told police that she last saw Isip talking to an unidentified person over the phone.

She said she told her brother to hang up but he ignored her.

Ronalyn then went to her room and, minutes later, she heard a gunshot, police said.

She said she saw her brother's body sprawled on the floor with the gun.

The victim was taken to the Fatima Medical Center where he was declared dead at 10:45 a.m.

Police later found a suicide note buried under the Isip laundry.

In the letter, the boy reportedly asked his mother, sister and girlfriend to forgive him for his shortcomings and said he did not know what drove him to suicide, police said.

The boy's family and friends could not make sense of the note, Salvador said.

Neighbors told police Isip did not have many friends and he rarely got into trouble.

The victim's body was sent to the Valenzuela Police station for autopsy.

Wazzzzup?

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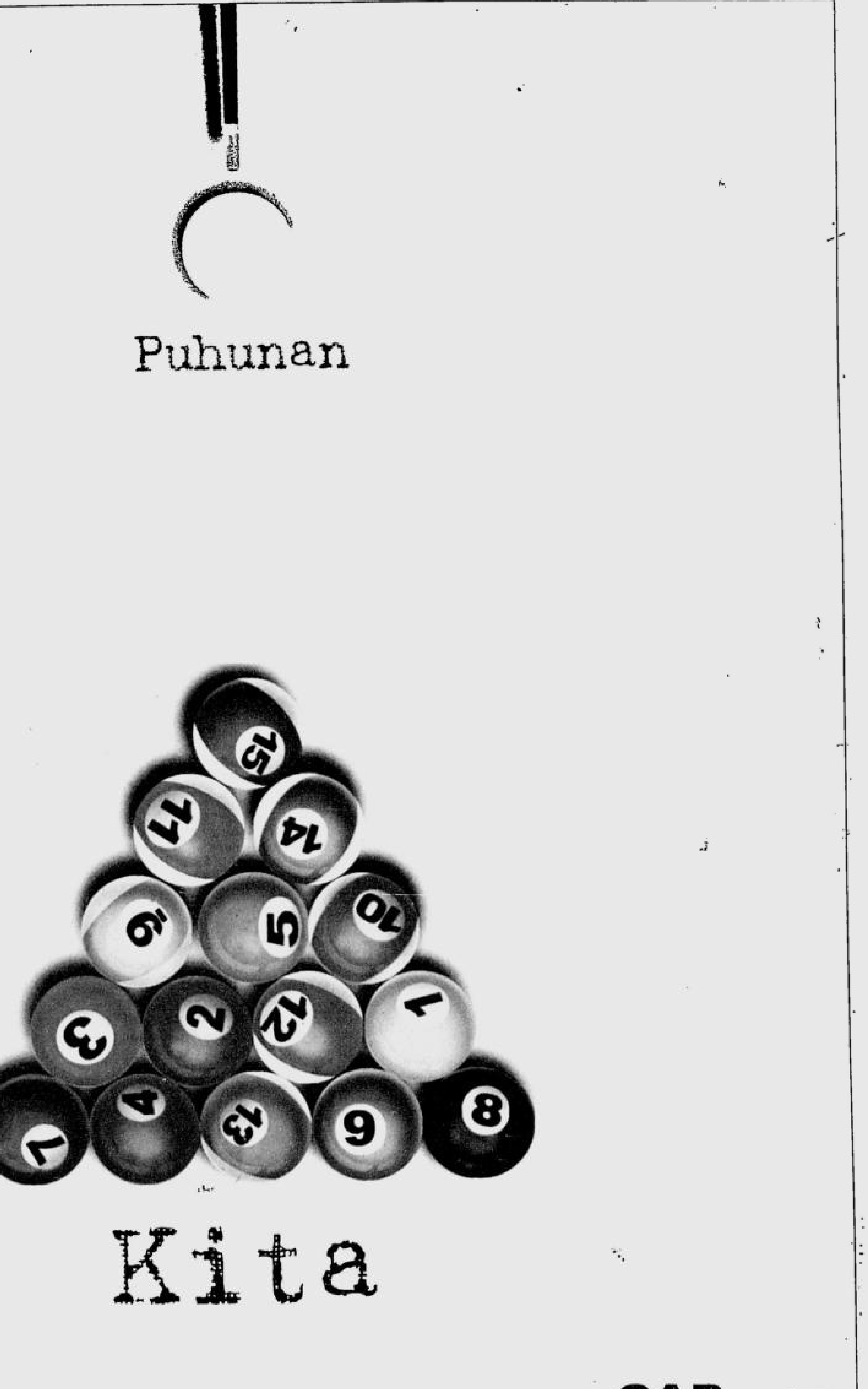

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Policeman beaten up for paying bus fare with P1,000 bill

ROOKIE policeman PO2 Bernard V. Quintero did not have small change when the ticket inspector of the bus he had boarded asked him to pay an extra P4 for his fare.

Quintero said he only had a P1,000 bill, which he offered to ticket inspector Leoncio B. Gabriel, of Fortune Street, Everlasting Payatas A in Quezon City.

But Quintero said Gabriel got mad and beat him up.

The policeman, who is assigned to the Fairview police station, boarded the air-conditioned bus in Monumento, Caloocan City on Friday noon to go to work, said deskman SPO4 Edmund Senido of the Kamuning police station.

Quintero said he paid the fare up to Muñoz area, where he was to get off, but he fell asleep because of heavy traffic on Edsa.

When the bus was already near Quezon Avenue, Gabriel woke him up and demanded for an additional P4 for his fare.

Quintero said he explained he had no coins to pay for the extra fare. When he gave Gabriel the P1,000 bill, the ticket inspector got mad and they argued.

He said that even after he introduced himself as a policeman and showed Gabriel his ID card, the ticket inspector did not cool off, punched him in the face, then pushed him away before the other bus passengers could stop them.

On Monday, Quintero said he found out that Gabriel had filed charges against him. He said Gabriel had charged him with slander by deed.

In his complaint, Gabriel accused Quintero of starting the fight.

Quintero is set on filing a countercharge against Gabriel, said SPO4 Senido. *Philip C. Tubeza*

QC accident victim fished out of creek

A DRIVER was fished out of a Quezon City creek yesterday morning, 24 hours after he fell into it due to a traffic accident.

Manuel T. Llanas, 43, of Romualdez Street, Paco, Manila, was thrown into a creek along Araneta Avenue after the Toyota jeep (DNE 646) he was driving was struck by a Mitsubishi Canter truck (CJC-148) Monday morning, investigators said.

Police are hunting down truck driver Elmer Mercado, of Barangay Santol, Quezon City. Mercado escaped after the accident.

Traffic investigators earlier thought the jeep's driver had escaped or had gone to a nearby hospital.

But at about 5:30 a.m. yesterday, residents living near the accident area saw Llanas's body in the side of the creek.

Llanas was driving his jeep on Maria Clara Street from Banawe when the truck, which was on Araneta, collided with his vehicle at the corner of Araneta and Maria Clara, police said.

The jeep fell on its side and Llanas into the creek, police added.

Philip C. Tubeza

Worker stabbed dead while defending sister's honor

CONSTRUCTION worker Peter Z. Jungco of Quezon City died defending his sister's honor on Sunday.

Suspect Romy Dozon, of Pigeon Alley, Batasan Hills, Quezon City, reportedly stabbed dead Jungco, of Legislative Road, also of Batasan Hills, after Jungco accused him of peeping on Jungco's sister while she was taking a bath, SPO1 Ramon Fernandez said.

Police said Jungco confronted Dozon, an alleged drug pusher and addict in their area, about 9:45 p.m. Sunday, scolded him for his behavior and told him not to do it again, police said.

But Dozon reportedly got angry and kicked Jungco. Dozon then pulled out a knife and allegedly stabbed Jungco in the left shoulder, upper right eyebrow, and left chest, Fernandez said.

Jungco was taken to the New Era Hospital where he died at about 8 p.m. The suspect is at large. *Philip C. Tubeza*

Stopped for traffic violation, cyclist caught for having gun

By Jerome Aning

A CYCLIST who was stopped by a policeman for not wearing a helmet found himself in deeper trouble when the lawman learned he was carrying a gun without a permit, in Sta. Cruz, Manila early Sunday night.

Alex Baquiano, 34, married and a resident of Phase IV, Bagong Silang, Caloocan City, was arrested for violating the election gun ban imposed by the Commission on Elections.

PO3 Reynaldo Gumbao of the Western Police District's mobile patrol unit said he and his colleagues were patrolling Plaza Lacson in Sta. Cruz when they saw Baquiano pedaling on the square without a safety helmet at 8:20 p.m.

Gumbao said he alighted from the police car to stop the cyclist and cite him for violating the simple traffic safety regulation. But he said he spotted a snub-nosed .38-caliber pistol sticking out of the waistband of Baquiano's cycling shorts, so he asked if he had an exemption permit.

When Baquiano failed to show a permit, the policeman arrested him.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, February 21, 2000
7th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: **Sir 4:11-19**
Gospel: **Mk 9:38-40**

John said to Jesus, "Master, we saw someone who drove out demons by calling upon your name, and we tried to forbid him because he does not belong to our group." Jesus answered, "Do not forbid him, for no one who works a miracle in my name can soon after speak evil of me. For whoever is not against us is for us."

February 21 Wednesday—commentary

Filipino is probably one of the rare languages in the world that has two alternative forms for the 1st person plural: kami (we-exclusive), and tayo (we-inclusive). Today's Gospel is an exhortation against the common tendency towards exclusivism of various types. "He who is not against us is with us." This is Jesus' way of reminding Christians that they are not to behave like they have a monopoly of the truth, of goodness, of civility, of righteousness and compassion. This is a good message for our own mandated organizations, religious movements, congregations, orders, sects, etc., which easily fall into the trap of parochialism and the club-mentality.

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., U.P. Village, Diliman, Quezon City, U.P. P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: claret@cnl.net; Website: http://www.cnl.net/claret

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CRIMINAL LAW (MITIGATING CIRCUMSTANCES)—Voluntary surrender—The following are the requisites of voluntary surrender: (1) the offender had not been actually arrested; (2) the offender surrendered himself to a person in authority or to the latter's agent; (3) the surrender was voluntary; and (4) there is no pending warrant of arrest or information filed. For a surrender to be voluntary, it must be spontaneous and must also show the intent of the accused to submit himself unconditionally to the authorities, either because he acknowledges his guilt or he wishes to save them the trouble and expense incidental to his search and capture. It cannot be denied that when the accused learned that the police authorities were looking for him in connection with the death of the victim, he immediately went to the police station. It was there where he confessed to killing the victim in self-defense. However, the said surrender does not constitute one which would classify as a mitigating circumstance. It must be emphasized that at the time of his surrender, accused already had a pending warrant of arrest. His arrest by that time was imminent. The mitigating circumstance of voluntary surrender cannot be appreciated in favor of accused. [Citations omitted.] [Chief Justice Davide, Jr., First Division, People v. Taraya, G.R. No. 13551, October 27, 2000]

Digest by R.B. Vera

Panic at US Embassy

By Jerome Aning

PANIC yesterday noon briefly gripped the United States Embassy and nearby buildings in Ermita, Manila after five people tried to turn over to embassy officials a metal box that they claimed contained uranium.

US Embassy staff members, who thought the box contained a bomb or radioactive substances, quickly summoned experts from the Western Police District's explosives and ordnance disposal section.

After an hour of meticulous inspection, the EODS policemen led by Senior Insp. Jojo Capacete detonated the box using a bomb disruptor on the El Shaddai grounds at the CCP Complex.

The box turned out to contain gravel and sand.

The dull-gray box weighed about 50 kilos, measured 7 x 12 x 14 inches and had a hexagonal nut on top. It was embossed on one side with an American eagle and the characters "U 235007 USA."

Police identified the five people who brought the box as Felix Noharen, 58, Zaldy Vence, 42, Rudy Oguinda, 54, Girlie Nogas, and Loreto Daguplo, 53, all temporary residents of Quezon City.

Dagulpo, a businessman from Zamboanga del Norte, claimed there were more than 170 such boxes in his possession, which he and his friends reportedly bought from Bukidnon tribesmen for P125,000.

"We decided to buy it from them (the tribesmen), thinking it could be something of value to the US government," Dagulpo said. "We thought we would be rewarded for returning lost property."

Dagulpo told reporters he had been buying the boxes on installment from Bukidnon tribesmen who reportedly found them in 1989 on a mountain where a plane crashed in World War II.

Inspector Capacete initially thought the boxes might have been used as ballasts or stabilizers in large aircraft. But he later said the boxes could also be forgeries, citing that the size and appearance of the box Capacete saw appeared too new to be of World War II vintage.

"It's possible that they (Dagulpo and company) had been had by those tribesmen since these boxes are practically worthless," said Capacete, who later ordered the release of the five.

Dagulpo and his friends drove up to the embassy in a red Toyota Tamaraw (PTV-561).

Dagulpo claimed he had "a contact" inside the embassy who would buy back the boxes.

Around noon, an embassy guard spotted the box and informed his superiors, who forbade the quintet from entering the compound with the box.

Kibitzers, including embassy visitors and visa applicants, were shooed away from the site as police tinkered with the device.

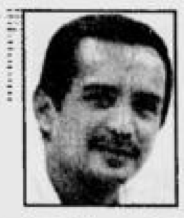
Three American experts from the embassy's security office also arrived and subjected the box to chemical tests to find out if it contained explosive powder, fluid, or even gold.

When the tests turned out to be negative, the police decided to detonate it in an open lot to determine its contents.

A challenge to candidates, on behalf of street kids

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad



(GRIEF & GRATITUDE: There was a nanny for each of their three kids, Stephanie, John Michael and Jonathan, says Paolo Mercado, husband of Asian sprint legend Lydia de Vega. Mr. Mercado swears he could not understand how and why, for the first time, John Michael's nanny, who had always stuck close to the boy, called in sick on that tragic Tuesday when the playful 4-year-old was run over and crushed by a straying passenger jeepney... Mr. and Mrs. Fernando Cruz called up from Sucat, Parañaque to say they would like to communicate with the Mercados. Mr. Cruz, a finance comptroller based in Dubai, said they, too, lost their son after an accident abroad late last month. The couple wanted to share the grief and console Lydia and Paolo... The Mercados are extending their heartfelt gratitude to all those who came to their side after they lost dear John Michael... Upon the advice of Tatang de Vega, John Michael was interred in Calvario, Meycuayan, Bulacan, Lydia's hometown, on Sunday.)

* * *

DO YOU have a spare P1,000 bill?

You can save 200 children from suffering brought about by measles with that extra money.

In fact, for as little as P500, you can help a street child go back to school.

If you donate P1,500, you can provide enough antibiotics to treat 300 displaced children suffering from pneumonia.

All you've got to do now is pick up the phone and dial 892-6545 or 892-0611. The Unicef (United Nations Children's Fund) operator will get your call.

I learned about these magic numbers from a letter sent to me at the INQUIRER by Dr. Terrel Hill, Unicef representative to the Philippines.

In that letter, Dr. Hill asked: Would you buy sampaguita, at 11 p.m. on a Sunday in the midst of a blinding rain?

* * *

Dr. Hills' story:

"I asked that question as I was driving home just a few weeks ago. That was the first time I saw Jo-An. The rain was making my windshield wipers practically useless.

"I was thankful that I was comfortably dry inside the car. I was wondering why anyone should even be out driving in this weather.

"And then I heard someone tapping on my window.

"It was a 7-year-old girl. She was drenched right through. Her teeth were chattering. She was asking me to buy sampaguita worth P30, so she could finish her work and go home."

* * *

Nothing unusual with that encounter between the cold, hungry street kid and the foreigner in the comfort of his vehicle.

It's a story that's repeated a countless times in too many city streets all over the country every day and night after night.

As the Unicef official has clearly stated: "You'll agree that there are far too many Jo-Ans in the street today."

He identified these luckless kids as children abandoned by their parents. Or worse, children forced by their parents to work in the streets at the hours when most working adults would already be safely at home.

* * *

These children, if the government truly cares, should be given utmost attention.

Unfortunately here, millions of pesos go to waste mainly on the cheap whims of blind, hurrying citizens who would often go for anything new and fancy in order to keep up with the rat race.

If only a portion of what frantic candidates spend on their campaign posters would, for example, be set aside and sent to caring institutions like Unicef. It would go a long way.

Other than being fed, these struggling street kids would be kept dry, sent to school and, most importantly, be saved from drugs, vices and the tentacles of beastly gangsters.

* * *

Anyway, I'm sending back to Unicef an empty envelope that has come with that letter from Dr. Terrel Hill.

With this humble gesture, I'm hurling a challenge to all available candidates in the forthcoming national polls to do their share.

If they or anybody among these candidates really care to serve, I dare them to call up the above-mentioned numbers.

Give a little, please.

By cutting down on those silly posters, you won't only help in lessening the monumental mess caused by the wild campaign battle being waged in our streets.

As Dr. Hill noted, the amount they're asking is quite small, especially when compared to the difference it will make in the lives of these poor children.

Unicef, he said, has made it a priority to help Filipino children—the kids we see on the street, begging, hawking, running around cars as if Manila's roads were one big, busy playground.

Yes, far too many Filipino children suffer from neglect, disease and abuse.

I trust you yourself will pause and listen. I trust you will make a difference in a Filipino child's life.

But, as the gesture won't be on national TV, I doubt if these candidates would bother to understand and help.

MMDA wants cash bonds from bets

METROPOLITAN Manila Development Authority Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. yesterday urged the Commission on Elections to require cash bonds from political candidates to guarantee that the metropolis would be cleared of campaign materials after the polls.

Abalos said the MMDA would use the bond in its cleanup drive after the elections or return it to the candidate if he decided to remove his own campaign materials.

"This way, we can ensure that the mess that political candidates will leave after the election period will be cleaned up," Abalos said.

The MMDA chair hit the Comelec for its apparent inaction in identifying the areas which could be used for posting of campaign propaganda, following the signing of the new election code, Republic Act No. 9006.

In a letter, the MMDA asked Comelec acting chair Rufino Javier for a copy of the Comelec resolution designating the common poster areas where candidates can display their campaign advertisements.

Javier replied that the Comelec received a copy of RA No. 9006 only on Feb. 13 and was still "in the process of formulating the required rules and regulations."

Abalos claimed that he was promised that the resolution would be ready last Friday, but that he had still not received it as of yesterday.

"It is for this reason that the MMDA could not implement the prohibition on illegal campaign posting," he said.

He maintained that it would be more practical for the Comelec to identify the places that may not be used for election propaganda, than to designate common poster areas.

He said the MMDA could tell candidates who posted campaign posters in "illegal" areas to remove the materials within a certain number of days.

If the candidate failed to take down the illegal ads, then he would be charged with violation of the election code, Abalos said. *Agnes E. Donato*

Comedian vs jukebox singer

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE MAYOR is a former action star, and the councilor is a movie and television comedian. Add to the list a singer, and you have politics, Caloocan City style.

In the May elections, April "Bingo" Regino will add his voice to the ticket of Rep. Luis "Baby" Asistio, who will run against incumbent Caloocan Mayor Reynaldo Malonzo, former actor.

Regino is a brother of the more popular April "Boy" Regino. They and another brother, Jimmy, used to be a trio called the April Boys.

But Malonzo, who is on his last reelection bid for mayor, has comedian Dennis Padilla under the Lakas party gunning for a second straight term as councilor of District II.

Regino will run for District I councilor under the ticket of Malonzo's political foe Asistio, who is the official mayoral candidate of the Nationalist People's Coalition.

Even if Padilla is largely considered as the most popular among the candidates running under Malonzo's ticket, Regino, 31, and his younger brother Jimmy, have their own mass following and are credited, along with April Boy, of reviving the popularity of jukebox music in the country.

As expected, Regino sings his way into the hearts of Caloocan residents during initial campaign sorties. He sings April Boys hits like "Honey, My Love, So Sweet," "Sana'y Laging Magkapiling," and "Ikaw Pa Rin."

Regino said that if he wins, he would push for projects such as affordable but quality education, low-cost housing, and effective waste management system.

The candidacy of Padilla and Regino would heighten the rivalry between Malonzo and Asistio, whose running word war has ignited controversies, charges, and counter-charges.

But a similar verbal battle would probably not happen between Regino and Padilla even though the singer yesterday told the INQUIRER that he was disappointed with what he described as Padilla's dismal performance in the city council.

"I could have done better if I were in his place," Regino said. "He could not even put things in order in his area, 11th Avenue. It's very dirty."

He said he should have been councilor, not Padilla, if he did not refuse Malonzo's offer to run in the previous local elections.

He said Padilla does not seem serious with his job.

"His projects and vision for Caloocan are not clear," he said. "When asked about them, he just jokes (and says) 'secret.'"

Padilla is not expected to react to Regino. The comedian has always been unavailable for interviews with the INQUIRER.

Asistio has described Padilla as "chair of the committee on silence" for hardly ever speaking during city council sessions.

Phillip: Jinggoy not . . .

(From page A17)

port me, that's for sure. He is in charge of all the PMP candidates nationwide."

On Monday, Ejercito announced he would no longer run for congressman of San Juan to give way to former executive secretary Ronaldo Zamora.

Also denying reports that Ejercito would also be Salvador's campaign manager, the actor said that job would be handled by former Mandaluyong vice mayor Dr. Mon Guzman.

Ejercito's Millennium Cinema produced Salvador's latest movie, "Kaaway Hanggang Hukay," which would be released by the actor's brother and manager, Ramon, under RS Productions.

Ejercito closed down Millennium Cinema last December at the height of the impeachment trial of his father, former President Estrada.

"I have a big chance of winning," Salvador said of his first political venture. "As long as you will do what's good for the people, no one will be against you."

His running mate is Ernesto "Bibot" Domingo, according to the actor.

"People in Mandaluyong have been telling me that for 15 years, all they got were promises," Salvador said. "I guess it's time to give the people what they really need."

The actor also denied it was Ejercito who prodded him to join politics.

He said that in 1995 and in 1998, he was asked to run "but I turned down the offers because I wasn't ready for politics then."

"This year, after I was offered again," he said. "I went around Mandaluyong and I saw the plight of the people. You only need a day to see the hardships that Mandaluyong residents are going through."

He said what he saw "convinced me to run."

Many observers think that, coming after the fall from power of former movie actor Estrada, Salvador's own political bid would meet with defeat.

"I respect their opinion, but I'm still running," Salvador said. "I hope they don't dictate on the people who want to run, especially those from show biz who want to join politics."

Seafood Market reopens in Ermita

THE SEAFOOD Market and Restaurant, an innovator in fine dining and wet market under one roof, will celebrate its 15th anniversary by reopening on Jorge Bocobo Street, Ermita, today at 7 p.m.

It has just undergone a renovation that took three months. Seafood Market and Restaurant has attracted celebrities like Julio Iglesias and former King of Spain Juan de Bouron, father of the current monarch, King Juan Carlos I.

Laarni's . . .

(From page A17)

The agreement showed that Sevilla had authorized Enriquez to represent her in transactions involving the property. The agreement also stipulated that Enriquez would receive a huge share from the proceeds of the sale of the property.

Late last year, Enriquez claimed ownership of the property, which had been transformed into burial plots and sold. Enriquez set up barricades to prevent owners of the plots from visiting the graves of their relatives.

But Sevilla said Enriquez no longer had authority over the property since the agreement between them had already expired on Aug. 15, 2000.

Charvet, 77

PAULITA Charvet y Razon, a native of Libon, Albay passed away yesterday. She was 77.

The widow of Leonardo "Tito Nards" Charvet, famous entertainment writer and magazine editor, will be interred on Saturday at the Manila Memorial Park in Parañaque.

Her body lies in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapels on Araneta Avenue in Quezon City.

Ina says goodbye to sexy roles

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

"TUHOG," the controversial bold drama megged by **Jeffrey Jeturian**, will be the last film where sexy actress **Ina Raymundo** will do a flesh-baring stint on the big screen. When Ina announced two weeks ago that she is pregnant (now two months), she vowed not to do sexy roles again after she has given birth.

"I'm ready to become a mom and once I take that responsibility, I am also taking it upon myself that I will no longer do sexy roles," Ina says. "Besides, *hindi na rin naman bagay* that you have a kid and you're still doing sexy roles."

The news about Ina's pregnancy initially alarmed her talent manager, **Dondon Monteverde**, who got worried that Ina might not be able to fulfill her commitments.

Ina has two upcoming movies. Aside from "Tuhog," she plays leading lady to **Phillip Salvador** in Millennium Cinema's action-drama, "Kaaway Hanggang Hukay."

Ina also tapes for a weekly sitcom on GMA-7, "Beh Bote Nga." And she is supposed to promote an album for Dyna Records which contains mostly dance tunes.

The doctor told Ina it will be a high-risk pregnancy and she needs bed rest, so she has no choice but to slow down. Her ever-supportive manager, meanwhile, vows not to overwork his talent.

Ina made no effort to hide her pregnancy even if it is out of wedlock. Unlike other female stars who go into endless denials, Ina beams with pride now that she is about to become a mom.

The minute she found out about her interesting condition, she went on nationwide TV to tell the public she is pregnant.

"I don't see any reason to hide it. I'm very happy and I'm ready to become a mom. That's why Ina *ang* name *ko*," says the actress whose name means mother in Tagalog.

After missing her period, Ina herself bought a test pack and did her own pregnancy test at 5 a.m.

"They said it's the best time for a urine sample so I woke up," Ina shares. "When I saw the positive sign, I was shocked, but I didn't feel bad. I took a second test to confirm it, then I told my mom that I am pregnant. She was the first person who learned about it."

After an ultrasound test, Ina's doctor predicted the actress might have twins, which makes Ina doubly excited.

Ina says it's a miracle baby for her. She went to the doctor initially because of a cyst in her ovary, which could have prevented her from getting pregnant.

"So when my doctor found out I was pregnant, she said I'm really lucky and it's a miracle baby," Ina says.

The father of the baby is Ina's Ukranian-Canadian boyfriend **Brian Poturnak**, a Manila-based businessman whom she claims to be a look-alike of Hollywood actor **Brad Pitt**.

"I think he's the most handsome guy I've ever met," Ina says. "I'm just so in love with him. When he's asleep, I would simply stare at him. Siya rin ang napaglilihian ko. I hope the baby takes after his looks."

At 25, Ina says she is ready to face the responsibilities of motherhood. She plans to give birth here and not in the US.

"I will only be depressed if I give birth there because I'd feel alone," she says. "I want my mom to be with me and Brian, of course."

Ina met Brian two years ago through talent manager **Joji Dingcong**, who introduced them in a party. However, it was only eight months ago when they became lovers. Since then, the two have become inseparable, even as Brian shuttles between the United States and Manila for his work.

Quitting show biz is not on Ina's mind even after she has given birth. But she insists her baby will definitely be her priority over her career.

In "Tuhog," Ina stages a bid to legitimize her career as major actress. She has proven her box office worth in solo starrers like "Burlesk Queen Ngayon" and "Madame X," but when it comes to the acting arena, Ina will fight it out to get critical praise for "Tuhog."

Serious in real life

JANNO Gibbs' latest comedy movie, "Tusong Twosome," where he shares the title role and stellar billing with another comedian, **Andrew E.**, nearly had trouble with the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board because of its toilet humor and green jokes.

Until last weekend, Janno was hoping to get a PG-13 classification for his movie, which starts its regular theater run today.

Last year, Janno encountered the same dilemma with the censors with his movie, "Juan and Ted," which also starred **Bayani Agbayani**. Thankfully, the movie was given a favorable classification despite its malicious one-liners.

Janno claims he doesn't rely on old or rehashed jokes when it comes to his movies.

"I experiment on comedy for every movie," he says. "Often, my gauge is myself. I should be able to laugh at the jokes or punchlines, otherwise, they will not be effective. The staff and production crew should also be able to laugh at the jokes."

GIBBS. Tough job to deliver the goods with new costar Andrew E.

"Tusong Twosome" marks the first time that Janno is teaming up with Andrew E. in a comedy flick. A number of industry insiders are skeptical that the Janno-Andrew E. tandem is a big gamble for Viva Films. Hence, the new comedy duo has to do a tough job to deliver the goods.

But Janno is confident his partnership with Andrew E. will be a hit with the audience. Like him, Andrew has proven himself as a bankable comedian, with a string of comedy flicks to his screen credits.

In the first place, Janno says he doesn't really choose his costar.

"I'll accept anything as long as it's the right project for me, regardless of who my costar is," Janno allows. "Andrew and I have a lot in common. Aside from being comedians, we also sing. Besides, we get along really well. It's great to work with someone who really understands comedy."

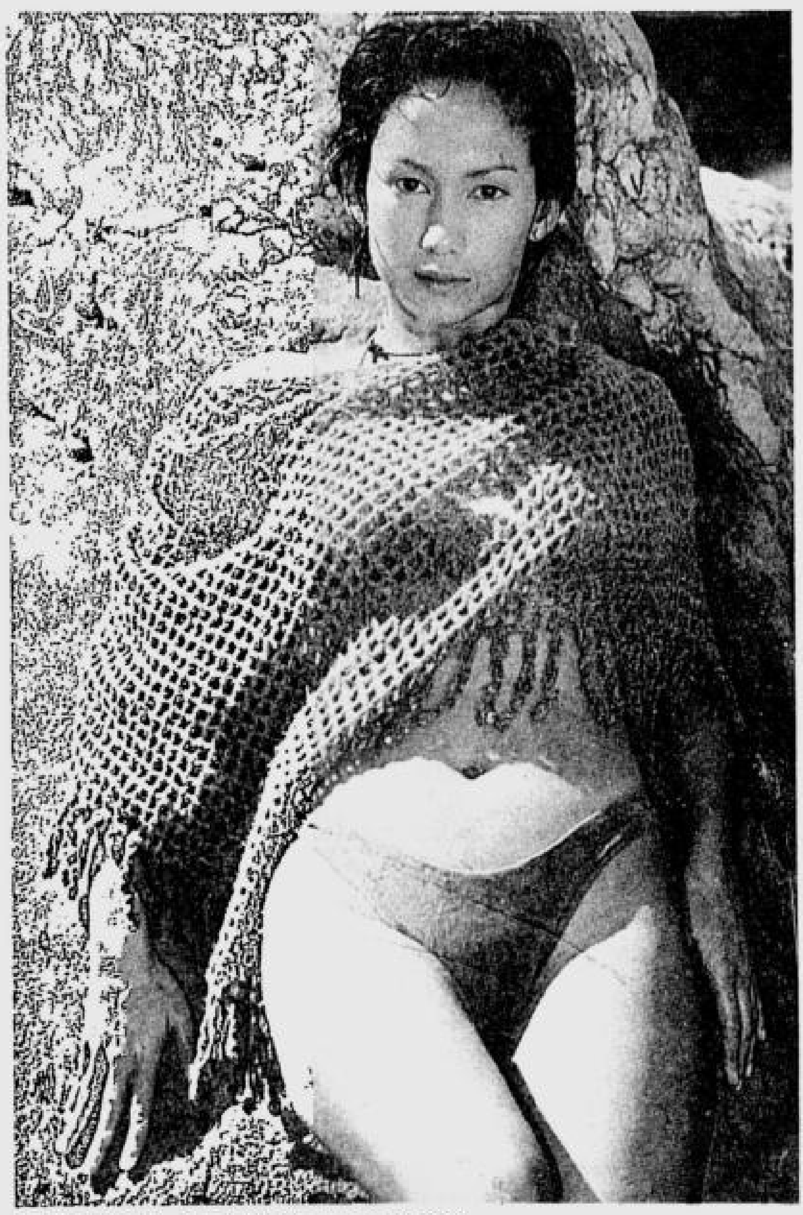
In "Tusong Twosome," which marks the return of **Ben Feleo** to the director's chair, Janno is the street-smart con who swindles an innocent provincial lad played by Andrew E. But they end up being partners in crime who fight a scheming syndicate boss.

The duo will be joined by decathlete **David Bunevacz**, who is making his big screen debut, former beauty queen **Joanne Quintas**, comebacking actress **Jackie Forster** and newcomer **Victoria London**.

Contrary to his TV and movie persona, Janno keeps a serious mien.

"*Mas* comedian *pa ang* daddy *ko* (**Ronaldo Valdez**) *at si* Bing (**Loyzaga**) *kaysa sa akin*," he says. "It's hard to make me laugh, although there are certain people who can make me laugh like **Ogie** (**Alcasid**) and Bayani. Being a comedian is a work I enjoy. Comedy is easier and I get a lot of comedy projects that's why most people think I'm also funny in person."

Now without a manager after he left **Ronnie Henares**, Janno believes it's both an advantage and a disadvantage for him.



RAYMUNDO. Ready to become a mom

"I can control my own schedule and I can choose only the projects I like," he says. "But it's a little hard to deal with some producers especially when it comes to my talent fees. But Bing has been a big help in my career because she does most of the business deals for me."

Aside from his movie, Janno is excited about his upcoming album where he does duets with divas such as **Regine Velasquez, Zsa Zsa Padilla, Jaya, Pops Fernandez, Kuh Ledesma, Lani Misalucha, Sharon Cuneta** and even **Pilita Corrales**.

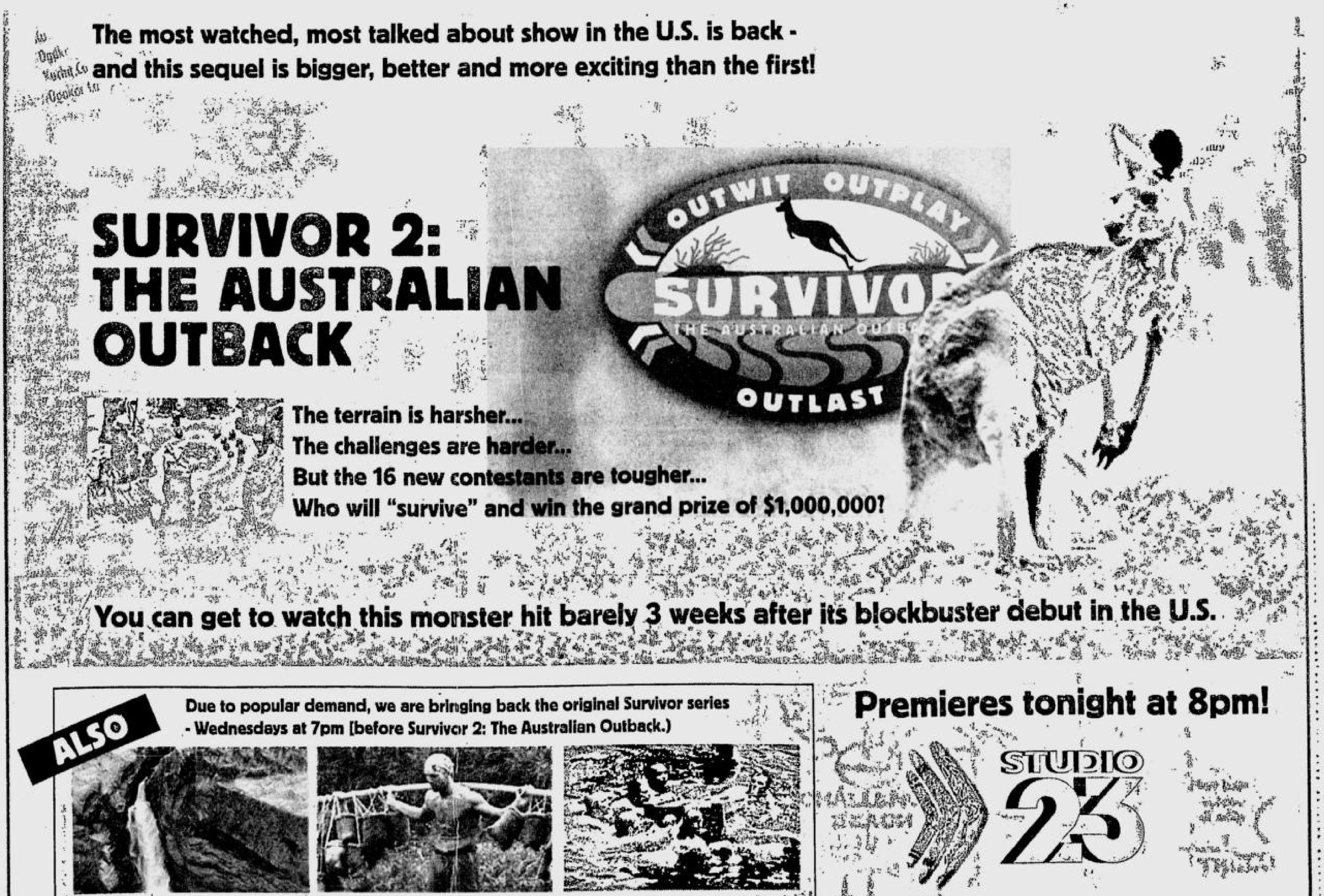
Meanwhile, Janno's Music Museum concert, "Blowout," produced by his wife Bing, will be aired on Saturday, Feb. 24, 9 p.m. on RPN-9.

The concert gathers first-rate artists such as **Martin Nievera, Gary Valenciano**, Regine and Jaya, who performed with Janno onstage.

Post-Valentine gig

NEVER too late for Valentine is the stand-up comedy show of **Phillip Lazaro**, "Testesfecandum," 9 tonight at the Library along M. Adriatico St., Malate, Manila.

With new comedy skits and sketches that made him one of the most in-demand performers in town, Phillip will be joined by actor **Bojo Molina** as special guest. **Andrew de Real** directs.



The most watched, most talked about show in the U.S. is back - and this sequel is bigger, better and more exciting than the first!

SURVIVOR 2: THE AUSTRALIAN OUTBACK

The terrain is harsher...
The challenges are harder...
But the 16 new contestants are tougher...
Who will "survive" and win the grand prize of $1,000,000?

You can get to watch this monster hit barely 3 weeks after its blockbuster debut in the U.S.

ALSO

Due to popular demand, we are bringing back the original Survivor series - Wednesdays at 7pm [before Survivor 2: The Australian Outback.)

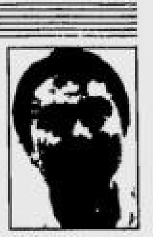
That's a 2-hour Survivor spectacle you wouldn't want to miss!

Premieres tonight at 8pm!

STUDIO 23

More sequels coming up

VIEWFINDER



Nestor U. Torre

DESPITE the fact that movie sequels tend to be little more than warmed-up second servings of the original films, viewers can expect to see more of them this year. You can blame it on the good box office that sequels have enjoyed in preceding months, proof that moviegoers like seeing familiar material and characters, even if they don't do much that's really all that new and exciting.

Of course, producers of sequels were greatly heartened last week when "Hannibal," the follow-up to "The Silence of the Lambs," did whopping of release. That's much, much better than what most original releases have done, and is in fact the third best opening of any film ever made.

Other sequels you can expect to see this year:

"Men in Black, 2." The new production reunites original **Will Smith** and **Tommy Lee Jones** with director **Barry Sonnenfeld**, with the additional plus point of a production team that includes *the* **Steven Spielberg**.

How did the production attract such topnotch talent? By paying a lot of money—through the nose. With its budget so big, can the sequel hope to end up, well, in the black? Yes, because the "MIB" film format has proven to be very popular with viewers.

The original movie made an awesome $588 worldwide!

"Anaconda, 2." The original monster film hit it big despite its modest budget, thanks to that huge snake and the presence of **Jennifer Lopez**.

Alas, Lopez has become a hot property now and her talent fee has gone through the roof, so the sequel can no longer afford her.

But its producers are confident that its giant snake will fascinate and terrify viewers once more, and the star serpent hasn't asked for a raise in salary, so on with the show!

"Blue Streak, 2." The action-comedy caper's sequel will star **Martin Lawrence** once again, and that's solid insurance at the box office. To get it, the new movie's producers had to pay Lawrence $20 million—a mind-bog

MORE/A25

SM CINEMA GUIDE

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NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR 4173868

1	DOLBY SURROUND	SNATCH
2	DOLBY SURROUND	DEMON GATE
3	DOLBY DIGITAL	CAST AWAY
4	DOLBY SURROUND	102 DALMATIANS
5	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	PAY IT FORWARD
6	DOLBY SURROUND	TUSONG TWOSOME
7	DOLBY SURROUND	WOMAN ON TOP
8	DOLBY SURROUND	TUHOG

SM CENTERPOINT 7149522 • 7151416

1	DOLBY SURROUND	TUSONG TWOSOME
2	DOLBY SURROUND	DEMON GATE
3	DTS	PAY IT FORWARD
4	DOLBY SURROUND	WAY OF THE GUN
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	CAST AWAY
6	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	102 DALMATIANS
7	DOLBY SURROUND	SNATCH
8	DOLBY SURROUND	TUHOG
9	DOLBY SURROUND	WOMAN ON TOP
10	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	FAMILY MAN

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 9350749

1	DOLBY SURROUND	WAY OF THE GUN
2	DOLBY SURROUND	FAMILY MAN
3	DOLBY SURROUND	DEMON GATE
4	DOLBY DIGITAL	CAST AWAY
5	DOLBY SURROUND	102 DALMATIANS
6	DOLBY SURROUND	PAY IT FORWARD
7	DOLBY DIGITAL	VERTICAL LIMIT
8	DOLBY SURROUND	TUSONG TWOSOME
9	DOLBY SURROUND	SNATCH
10	DOLBY SURROUND	VITAL PARTS
11	DOLBY SURROUND	TUHOG
12	DOLBY SURROUND	WOMAN ON TOP

SM CITY MANILA 5239240

1	DOLBY DIGITAL	SNATCH
2	DOLBY DIGITAL	PAY IT FORWARD
3	DOLBY SURROUND	WAY OF THE GUN
4	DOLBY SURROUND	GETAWAY
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	WOMAN ON TOP
6	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	VERTICAL LIMIT
7	DOLBY SURROUND	BOUNCE
8	DOLBY SURROUND	102 DALMATIANS
9	DOLBY SURROUND	TUSONG TWOSOME
10	DOLBY SURROUND	TUHOG
11	DOLBY SURROUND	DEMON GATE
12	DOLBY SURROUND	FAMILY MAN

GUADALUPE COMM'L CTR 8820950

1	ULTRA SURROUND	TUHOG
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	TUSONG TWOSOME
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS

SM MEGAMALL 6331901 • 6329401

1	DOLBY DIGITAL	FAMILY MAN
2	DOLBY SURROUND	TUSONG TWOSOME
3	DOLBY DIGITAL	PAY IT FORWARD
4	DTS	CAST AWAY
5	DOLBY SURROUND	WAY OF THE GUN
6	DOLBY SURROUND	SNATCH
7	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
8	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
9	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
10	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
12	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

SM CITY NORTH EDSA 9295452

1	DOLBY SURROUND	WAY OF THE GUN
2	DOLBY SURROUND	TUSONG TWOSOME
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	DEMON GATE
4	DOLBY SURROUND	TUHOG
5	DOLBY SURROUND	SNATCH
6	DOLBY SURROUND	WOMAN ON TOP
7	DTS	PAY IT FORWARD
8	DOLBY DIGITAL	CAST AWAY
9	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	VERTICAL LIMIT
10	DOLBY SURROUND	BOUNCE
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	FAMILY MAN
12	DOLBY SURROUND	102 DALMATIANS

SM SOUTHMALL 8066888 • 8066782

1	ULTRA SURROUND	102 DALMATIANS
2	ULTRA SURROUND	SNATCH
3	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	CAST AWAY
4	ULTRA SURROUND	PAY IT FORWARD
5	ULTRA SURROUND	VIRGIN WIFE
6	ULTRA SURROUND	VERTICAL LIMIT
7	ULTRA SURROUND	DEMON GATE
8	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	TUSONG TWOSOME
9	ULTRA SURROUND	WOMAN ON TOP
10	ULTRA SURROUND	WAY OF THE GUN

TUTUBAN CENTER 2514302

1	ULTRA SURROUND	CAST AWAY
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	102 DALMATIANS
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	TUSONG TWOSOME
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	TUHOG

SM CEBU 2313876

1	DOLBY SURROUND	CAST AWAY
2	ULTRA SURROUND	VERTICAL LIMIT
3	ULTRA SURROUND	BOUNCE
4	ULTRA SURROUND	VITAL PARTS
5	ULTRA SURROUND	PROOF OF LIFE
6	ULTRA SURROUND	VIRGIN WIFE
7	DOLBY SURROUND	THE YARDS

SM ILOILO 3209422

1	ULTRA SURROUND	HINDI SISIW ANG KALABAN MO
2	ULTRA SURROUND	WHIPPED
3	ULTRA SURROUND	VERTICAL LIMIT
4	ULTRA SURROUND	BOOBA
5	ULTRA SURROUND	MALIKOT ANG AGOS NG TUBIG
6	ULTRA SURROUND	CAST AWAY
7	ULTRA SURROUND	LITTLE NICKY
8	ULTRA SURROUND	THE YARDS

SM PAMPANGA 7128015

1	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	CAST AWAY
2	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	102 DALMATIANS
3	DOLBY SURROUND	THE CONTENDER
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	HAPLOS
5	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	TUHOG
6	DOLBY SURROUND	TUSONG TWOSOME

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GLORIETTA 1 (formerly QUAD)

1 TUSONG TWOSOME
2 102 DALMATIANS
3 TUHOG
4 DEMON GATE

GLORIETTA 4 All Digital Sound

1 THE WAY OF THE GUN — in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2 CAST AWAY — in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3 PAY IT FORWARD THX — in DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4 THE ROAD HOME (Phil. Premiere) — in DTS DIGITAL SOUND — Art Film
5 FAMILY MAN — in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6 WOMAN ON TOP — in DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7 SNATCH — in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GREENBELT

1 CAST AWAY — in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
2 WOMAN ON TOP — in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3 PAY IT FORWARD — in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
4 SOON TO OPEN Onstage

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1 WOMAN ON TOP THX — in DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2 PAY IT FORWARD — in DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3 CAST AWAY — in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4 SNATCH — in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5 FAMILY MAN — in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (DSD) WOMAN ON TOP
2 (SDDS) SNATCH
3 (DTS) CAST AWAY
4 GOLD (DTS) PAY IT FORWARD
5 GOLD (DOLBY) WAY OF THE GUN
6 GOLD (SDDS) FAMILY MAN
7 GOLD (DOLBY) VERTICAL LIMIT
8 102 DALMATIANS
9 TUHOG
10 TUSONG TWOSOME

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486
1 TUHOG
2 VIRGIN WIFE
3 (DTS) CAST AWAY
4 RESERVE
5 ROARING LION RAGING DRAGON
6 DTS. PROOF OF LIFE
Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMAX 1-2 & 3
(Kalaw) tel 536.4315
1 (DOLBY) PAY IT FORWARD
2 (DTS) TUSONG TWOSOME
3 TUHOG

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 831.6603
1 TUHOG
2 CAST AWAY
3 TUSONG TWOSOME

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986
1 CAST AWAY
2 TUSONG TWOSOME
3 TUHOG
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) PAY IT FORWARD
5 WAY OF THE GUN

Metropolis
(Alabang) tel 543.4001
1 RESERVE
2 TUHOG
3 TUSONG TWOSOME
4 BALA KO ANG BAHALA SA 'YO
5 DEMON GATE
6 CAST AWAY
7 PAY IT FORWARD
8 WAY OF THE GUN

Uniwide Metromall
(Las Piñas) tel. 873.5606 loc. 1074
1 WATCH 3 MOVIE FOR ONLY P30.00
2 NAKED LIES
3 ANG BOYFRIEND KONG PARI
4 TABI TABI PO
5
6

Uniwide Coastal Mall
(Parañaque) tel 879.0001 loc. 2152
1 WATCH 3 MOVIE FOR ONLY P30.00
2 TALAHIB AT ROSAS
3 LITTLE HEROES LOST IN CHINA
4 TABI TABI PO

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 BOOBA
2 VERTICAL LIMIT

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC
tel 930.9515
1 RESERVE
2 TUHOG
3 ROARING LION RAGING DRAGON

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864
1 SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS
A LAKAS AT PAG IBIG

JC Cinema
(Parañaque) tel 825.8626
1 LAKAS AT PAG IBIG
3 SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8568
1 (DOLBY) CAST AWAY
2 WAY OF THE GUN
3 DEMON GATE
4 FAMILY MAN
5 TUSONG TWOSOME
6 TUHOG
7 (DTS) PAY IT FORWARD
8 (SDDS) SNATCH
9 (DOLBY) WOMAN ON TOP

Caloocan
tel 362.3508
2 TUSONG TWOSOME
3 ROARING LION RAGING DRAGON
TUHOG
4
5
6

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781
1 TUHOG
2 TUSONG TWOSOME
3 WAY OF THE GUN
4 (SDDS) PAY IT FORWARD
5 DEMON GATE
6 (DOLBY) SNATCH
7 (DTS) CAST AWAY
8 BALA KO ANG BAHALA SA 'YO
9 HAPLOS

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083
1 (DTS) CAST AWAY
2 TUSONG TWOSOME
3 TUHOG
4 DEMON GATE
5 (SDDS) SNATCH
6 WAY OF THE GUN
7 (DOLBY) PAY IT FORWARD
8 HAPLOS

Ortigas
tel 656.6795
1 DEMON GATE
2 HAPLOS
3 (DTS) ROARING LION RAGING DRAGON
4 TUHOG
5 (SDDS) 102 DALMATIANS
6 (DOLBY) PAY IT FORWARD
7 (DOLBY) TUSONG TWOSOME

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470
1 TUSONG TWOSOME

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888
1 TUHOG

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724
Dilson TUHOG
Lords HAPLOS
Jennet TUHOG

Marre Place Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 TUHOG
2 TUSONG TWOSOME
3 PAY IT FORWARD
4 ROARING LION RAGING DRAGON

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215
1
3 TUSONG TWOSOME

Super Cinerama
(Manila) tel 733.4226 or 733.4238
1 CAST AWAY
2 TUHOG
3 ROARING LION RAGING DRAGON
4 TUSONG TWOSOME
5 PAY IT FORWARD

Divisoria Mall
(Manila) tel 244.4560 or 244.4619
1 TUSONG TWOSOME
2 TUHOG
3 ROARING LION RAGING DRAGON
4 BALA KO ANG BAHALA SA 'YO
5 HAPLOS
6 VITAL PARTS

Baclaran LRT Cinema
tel 512.0115 or 512.0116
1 TUHOG
2 TUSONG TWOSOME
3 ROARING LION RAGING DRAGON

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198
1 TUSONG TWOSOME
2 TUHOG
3 (DTS) CAST AWAY

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 TUHOG
2 (DTS) TUSONG TWOSOME
3 (DOLBY) CAST AWAY
4 HAPLOS NG PAGMAMAHAL

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) TUHOG
2 ROARING LION RAGING DRAGON
3 WAY OF THE GUN
4 (DTS) TUSONG TWOSOME

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) THE CONTENDER
2 TUSONG TWOSOME
3 (DTS) CAST AWAY
4 TUHOG
5 SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883
1 TUHOG
2 TUSONG TWOSOME
3 SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101
1 TUHOG
2 TUSONG TWOSOME
3 SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311
1 102 DALMATIANS
2 VIRGIN WIFE
3 SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736
1 THE CONTENDER
2 CAST AWAY
3 TUSONG TWOSOME

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376
1 102 DALMATIANS
2 VIRGIN WIFE
3 BALA KO ANG BAHALA SA 'YO
4 SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 243.2783
1 (DTS) TUHOG
2 (DTS) RESERVE

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385
1 TUSONG TWOSOME

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657
1 SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS
2 TUSONG TWOSOME
3 BALA KO ANG BAHALA SA 'YO

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 VIRGIN WIFE
2 VITAL PARTS
3 BALA KO ANG BAHALA SA 'YO
4 WHAT WOMEN WANT

Berma
tel 879.2168
1
2

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269
1 CAST AWAY
2 TUHOG
3 TUSONG TWOSOME
4 102 DALMATIANS

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY EX) CAST AWAY
2 TUSONG TWOSOME
3 FAMILY MAN
4 (DTS EX) 102 DALMATIANS

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1. CAST AWAY
2. SNATCH
3. TUSONG TWOSOME
4. WOMAN ON TOP
5. DEMON GATE
6. PAY IT FORWARD
7. THE FAMILY MAN

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1. PAY IT FORWARD
2. TUHOG
3. DEMON GATE
4. CAST AWAY
5. TUSONG TWOSOME
6. 102 DALMATIANS

BACOLOD (034)441-0463

1. VERTICAL LIMIT
2. CAST AWAY
3. WHAT WOMEN WANT
4. BOUNCE
5. TABI TABI PO
6. SYOTA NG BAYAN

DOLBY dts SDDS

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	TUHOG
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	TUSONG 2 SOME
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	CAST AWAY
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	SNATCH
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	PAY IT FORWARD
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	102 DALMATIANS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	WAY OF THE GUN
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	PAY IT FORWARD
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	TUHOG
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	PAY IT FORWARD
MIRAMAR	ARAYY / HUNGER FOR LOVE
ODEON	WAY OF THE GUN
ODEON-2	SHADOW OF MARTIAL ARTS
ROBEN	TUSONG 2 SOME
TANDEM-1	IKA'PITONG GLORIA
TANDEM-2	VIRGIN WIFE
TIMES	SCARY MOVIE / MEN OF HONOR
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	ANAK NG YAKUSA
ACT-2	ANAK NG KANO
ACT-3	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
ACT-4	TURN ON
CORONET-2	TUHOG
QUEZON-1	TUSONG 2 SOME
REMAR	TUSONG 2 SOME
REMAR-2	SHADOW OF MARTIAL ARTS
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	BALA KO ANG BAHALA SA 'YO
OCEAN CINEMA-A	SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS
OCEAN CINEMA-B	LAKAS AT PAG IBIG
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	VERTICAL LIMIT
CINEMA-2	102 DALMATIANS
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-54091 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS
CINEMA-2	BALA KO ANG BAHALA SA 'YO
CINEMA-3	LAKAS AT PAG IBIG
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	VERTICAL LIMIT
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	VITAL PARTS
CINEMA-6	IKA-7 GLORYA
CINEMA-7	VIRGIN WIFE
CINEMA-8	WHAT WOMEN WANT
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	CAST AWAY
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	FAMILY MAN
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	102 DALMATIANS
CINEMA-12	NURSE BETTY
CINEMA-14	PROOF OF LIFE
CINEMA-15	BOUNCE
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS
CINEMA-3	LAKAS AT PAG IBIG
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	WOMAN ON TOP
CINEMA-2	SNATCH
CINEMA-3	PAY IT FORWARD
CINEMA-4	CAST AWAY
CINEMA-5	FAMILY MAN
CINEMA-6	102 DALMATIANS

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ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

More sequels coming up

(From page A24)

gling increase for a relatively new star like him.

The raise makes him one of Hollywood's most expensive stars, so Lawrence had better work his butt off in the sequel to prove that he's worth every million.

Other sequel in the pipeline: "Matrix, 2" and "3." "Rush Hour, 2." "Jurassic Park, 3." Plus updates on "Jumanji," "The Mask of Zorro" and "Charlie's Angels."

And producers are already talking to "Hannibal" and "The Silence of the Lambs" star **Anthony Hopkins** about a third cannibalistic outing that's expected to literally make a killing at the box office!

Citylite treats

CITYLITE 88.3 is presenting the launch of Gary V's "Revive" CD at the fountain area of Robinsons Galleria at 4 p.m. today, Feb. 21. On Friday, Feb. 23, Verni Varga and Richard Merk perform in "Romance of A Lifetime" for the Citylite Jazz Lounge Series at 7 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency Manila.

On Feb. 28 at 9 p.m., CityLite Live! Features the jazz group Trio de Janeiro at Citron Rouge, Pasay rd., Makati. For details, call 631-8801.

AYALA CINEMAS
ARTFILM - GLORIETTA 4
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This February watch & fall in love in ArtFilm's series of exclusive spectacular romantic films that will take you into an unforgettable journey into the realm of the heart.

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THE ROAD HOME
Romantic drama; featuring Zhang Ziyi (critically acclaimed star of CROUCHING TIGER); directed by Zhang Yimou.

From the Award-winning director of RAISE THE RED LANTERN & NOT ONE LESS comes a romantic drama on the touching courtship of a simple village girl & a school teacher, as seen through the eyes of their son. Their heartwarming love story unfolds during a difficult period in China's modern history.

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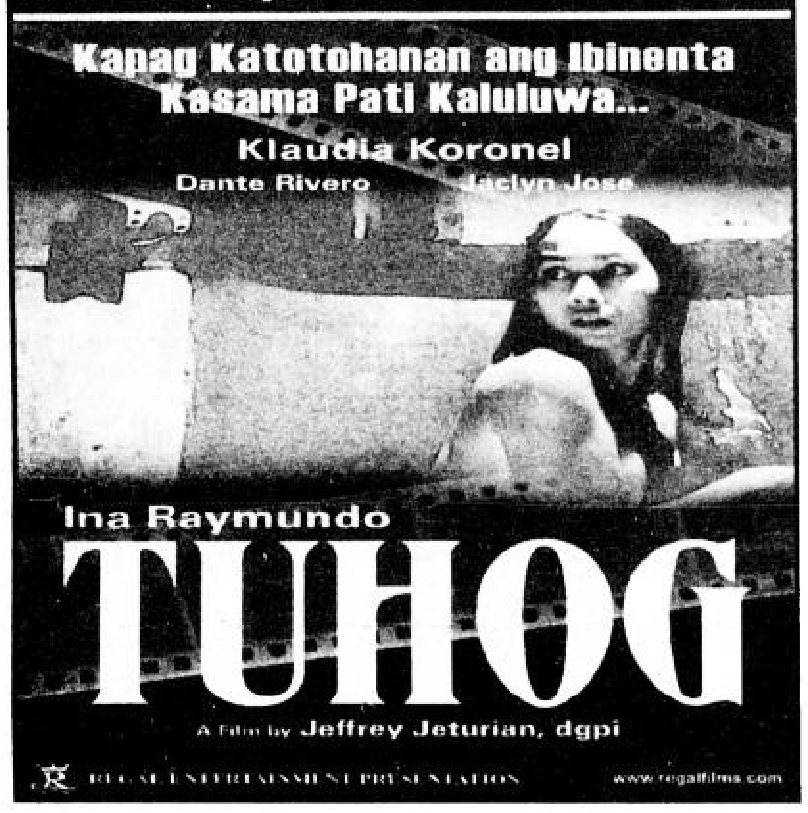
The First Important Film of the Year!


Kapag Katotohanan ang Ibinenta
Kasama Pati Kaluluwa...
Klaudia Koronel
Dante Rivero
Jaclyn Jose
Ina Raymundo
TUHOG
A Film by Jeffrey Jeturian, dgpi
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ang Pila sa Box-Office!

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KLAUDIA.
Ina Raymundo
Klaudia Koronel
TUHOG
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FEB 21 - 27 AT SM MANILA
Pelikula Lipunan 2001
PELIKULA AT LIPUNAN 2001
CINEMA IN THE ISLANDS
FEB 21

11 am	1:30 pm	4 pm
Experimental Short Films	MFI Classic Short Films	Lino Brocka's TATLO, DALAWA, ISA

AT 6:30 pm
Festival Opening Night / Premiere of daring films by young filmmakers!
GAY & LESBIAN DOCUMENTARIES

PALUGID by Paolo Villaluna
T by Tammie Tam
Whoman by Gladys Hernando

MTRCB RATING R-18 ▶ Strictly for adults
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NATIONAL ARTS INSTITUTE
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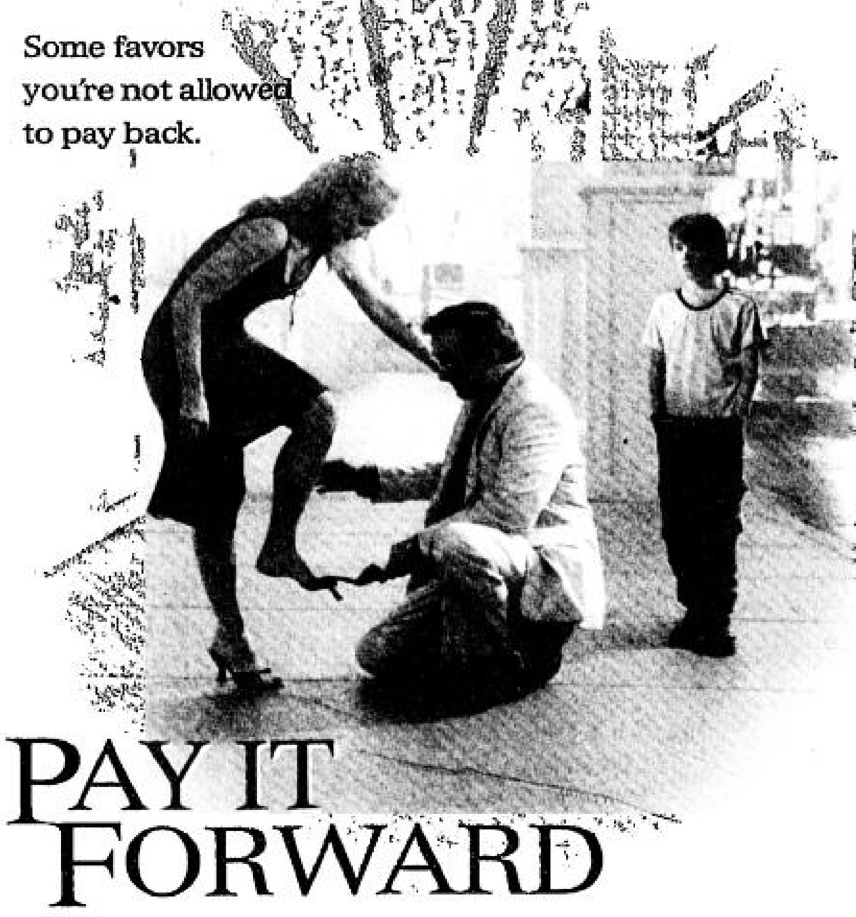
ACADEMY AWARD® WINNER HELEN HUNT
ACADEMY AWARD® NOMINEE HALEY JOEL OSMENT

Some favors
you're not allowed
to pay back.



PAY IT FORWARD

WARNER BROS. PICTURES PRESENTS
IN ASSOCIATION WITH BEL-AIR ENTERTAINMENT A TAPESTRY FILMS PRODUCTION A MIMI LEDER FILM
KEVIN SPACEY HELEN HUNT HALEY JOEL OSMENT "PAY IT FORWARD" JAY MOHR JAMES CAVIEZEL JON BON JOVI AND ANGIE DICKINSON
MUSIC BY THOMAS NEWMAN EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS MARY McLAGLEN JONATHAN TREISMAN BASED ON THE NOVEL BY CATHERINE RYAN HYDE
SCREENPLAY BY LESLIE DIXON PRODUCED BY STEVEN REUTHER PETER ABRAMS AND ROBERT L. LEVY DIRECTED BY MIMI LEDER
BEL AIR
www.payitforward.com
88.3
89.9 MAGIC

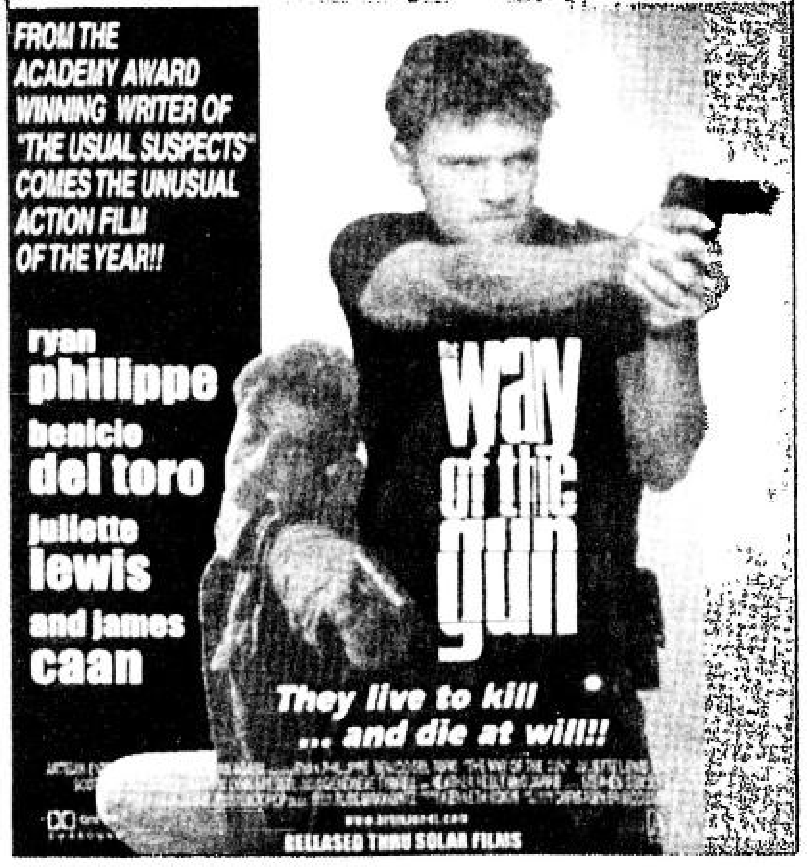
Action Comedy in the tradition of PULP FICTION
BRAD PITT ACTION BEGINS TODAY!
MTRCB RATING ▶ R Restricted | Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.

snatch
BENICIO DEL TORO DENNIS FARINA VINNIE JONES BRAD PITT RADE SHERBEDGIA JASON STATHAM

sony.com/snatch

Distributed by COLUMBIA PICTURES

OPENS TODAY!!!
MTRCB RATING ▶ R-18 Strictly for Adults Only


FROM THE ACADEMY AWARD WINNING WRITER OF "THE USUAL SUSPECTS" COMES THE UNUSUAL ACTION FILM OF THE YEAR!!
ryan phillippe
benicio del toro
juliette lewis
and james caan
the way of the gun
They live to kill
... and die at will!!!
RELEASED THRU SOLAR FILMS

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

1	2	3
WOMAN ON TOP - P 13 11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30	SNATCH - R 18 12:45, 2:55, 5:05, 7:15, 9:30	PAY IT FORWARD - P 13 11:40, 2:15, 4:40, 7:15, 9:50
CAST AWAY - P 13 1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00	THE FAMILY MAN - P 13 11:40, 2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 10:00	102 DALMATIANS - G 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45

MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.

THEY'RE BACK! AND THEY'RE MORE!
2nd 'SPOT-ON FUN FOR ALL AGES' WEEK!
MTRCB RATING ▶ G General Patronage | ALL AGES ADMITTED

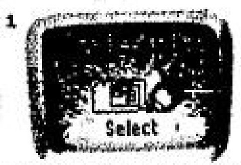
Have you seen my spots?

GLENN CLOSE
DISNEY'S
102 DALMATIANS
THIS SEASON, THE DALMATIANS WILL REIGN.
Distributed by BUENA VISTA INTERNATIONAL thru COLUMBIA PICTURES

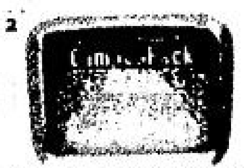
EXTENDED!!!
MTRCB RATING ▶ R RESTRICTED | STRICTLY FOR ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. old may be admitted.

Pinky Amador Allan Paule Raffy Anido Ray Ventura
Pyar Mirasol and Vda Manzano
Sa Iyong mga Haplos

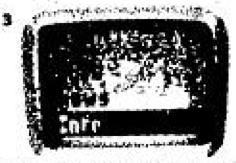
Via the menu-based convenience of
GlobeXPLORE

1


First, click Menu on your phone and scroll to select GlobeXplore.

2


Click on Campus Pack to view the new services available.

3


Click on Info from the categories that will be shown on the screen.

4

Entertainment
Scheds
Globe Info

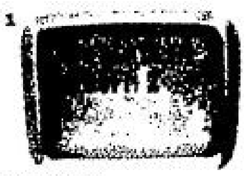
Click on Entertainment.

5

Reserve Seats
Scheds
Home Videos

Click on Reserve Seats and a list of movie theaters will be shown. Choose Glorietta 4, follow the instructions on making reservations and send. Then wait for the confirmation message.

Via the familiar text-based key words of ***InfoText***

1


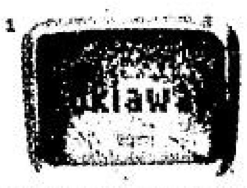
To reserve:
type in sureseats_G4_cinema number_time_number of tickets and send to 2333 (ex. SURESEATS G4 3 06:00pm 2) and wait for reply.

2

2/16/20
08:00 PM
TICKET(s): 2

Confirmation message from 2333 will read: "trans ID_total price_movie title_date of screening_quantity of tickets_if guaranteed seats, row & seat no."(ex.TRANS ID:12830 AMOUNT:180 MOVIE:Hannibal DATE:2/16/2001 TIME:08:00 PM TICKET(s):2) Save this reply for validation at the Sureseats booth.

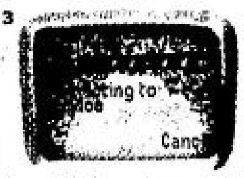
Via the on-line convenience of WAP

1


If you're a first time WAP-user, type in the keyword of your phone type* and send to 2333. The WAP phone configurations will be sent to you. Follow the settings and configure your phone.

2

If your WAP handset is already configured, then go to the Services menu of your WAP-capable phone and click on Home.

3


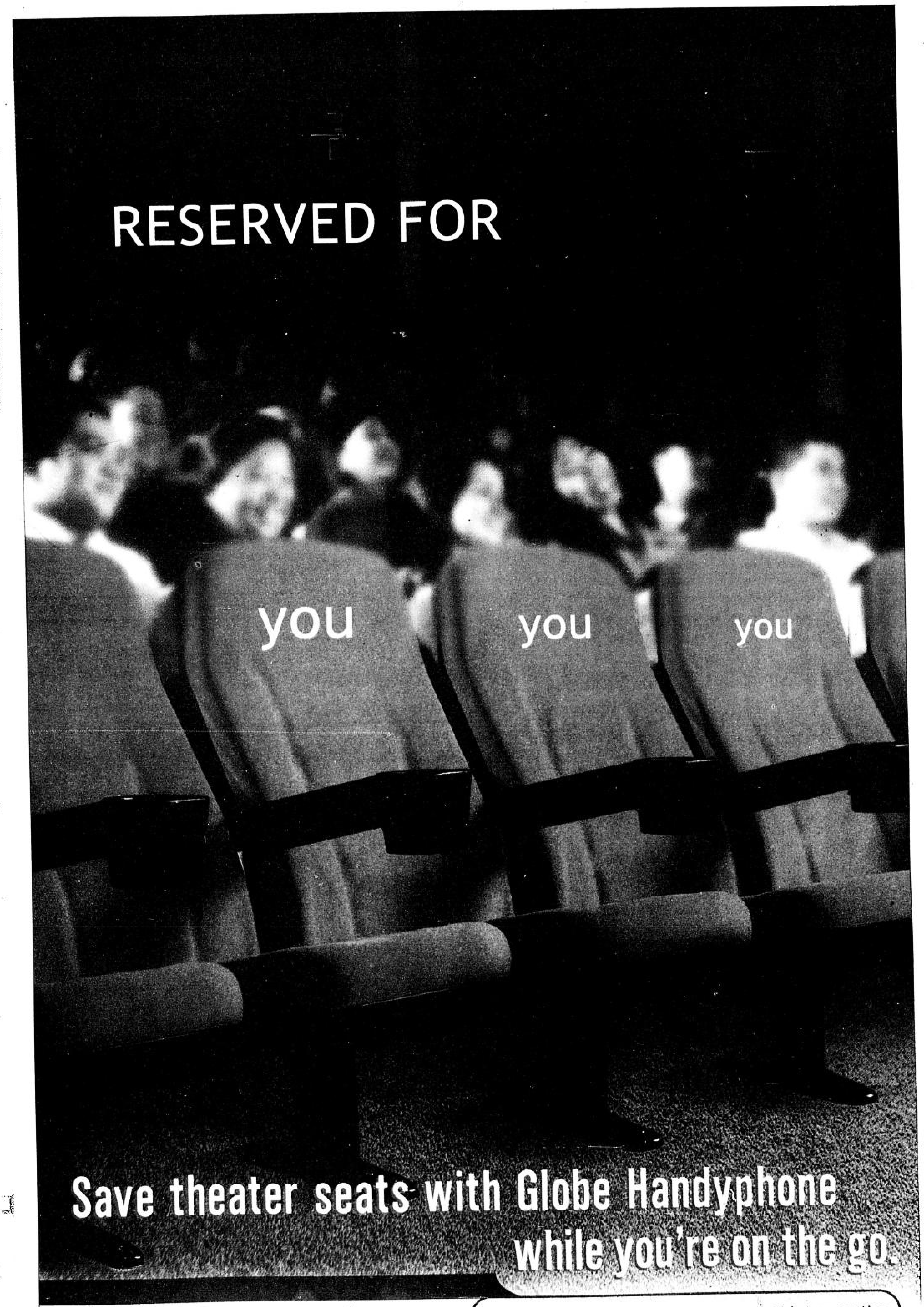
You will then see a prompt advising that you are being connected to the service.

4

Once connected, the Globe Homepage will appear. Click on New Sites or City Guides, then to Sureseats.com and wap away.

*The keywords are:

For Nokia 7110 and 6210-nokiawap
For EricssonR320s-ericssonwap
For Siemens M35-siemenswap
For Motorola T2288-motorolawap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There's a cool way to access Sureseats.com's ticket reservation service of myAyala.com, the country's largest on-line shopping mall through your Globe Handyphone. And you get to pay the standard theater rates* without queuing up. All you have to do is show up 30 minutes before viewing starts. Then present your message confirmation to validate your ticket claim at the Sureseats booth. When taking a break from the daily grind, Globe Handyphone has all you'll ever need.

sureseats.myAyala.com
www.myayala.com

*An additional charge of ₱10 will be paid above the standard theater rate at the Sureseats booth beginning March 1.

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BUSINESS

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ▪ CORRIE S. NARISMA, Assistant Editor

5 firms vie for Equitable Bank

SIX local and foreign banks were shortlisted by Equitable PCI Bank as among the qualified bidders for a substantial stake in the country's third largest lender in an auction slated next month.

Included in the list were the Metrobank Group and Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.

Foreign investors that were pre-qualified included venture firm Newbridge Capital Inc., Taiwanese giant Fubon Group, and Banco Santander Central Hispano of Spain.

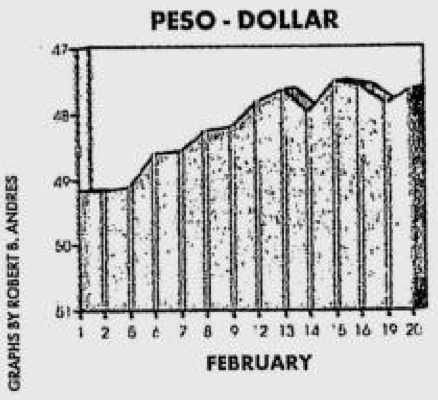
"We have created a committee to assess the proposals. There is no decision to merge or to take in a new investor," said bank director Winston Garcia, president and general manager of the Government Service Insurance System.

Garcia said the GSIS intended to sell at a premium of 10 to 20 percent over its average acquisition cost of P100.75 per share.

WB commits $200M for budget support

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



Peso-Dollar Rate

P47.63 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Feb. 20, 2001

¥115.65 = $1

The US dollar was trading at 115.65 as of 5 p.m., Feb. 20, 2001

GOLD:$259.20/259.70

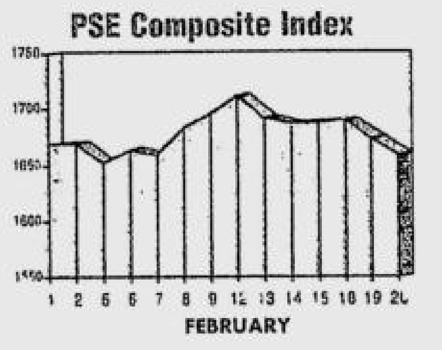
per ounce Hong Kong, Feb. 20, 2001

STOCK MARKET

Stocks ease

STOCKS eased slightly yesterday in very thin turnover as investors preferred to sit on the sidelines awaiting fresh news and further corporate results, traders said.

Turnover amounted to only P367.21 million, down from P443.99 million on Monday and P949.5 million last Friday.



(See stock market report on Page B2)

"There was a lack of fresh leads with earnings reports now just starting to trickle in . . . results to date particularly in the banking sector have been generally disappointing," United Coconut Planters Bank trust fund manager Vanessa Lim said.

Reuters

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

THE WORLD Bank has committed $100 million to $200 million in additional financing to the Philippines to help the Macapagal administration contain its ballooning budget deficit.

Trade Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II said the World Bank commitment was made during a meeting on Monday between President Macapagal-Arroyo and visiting WB vice president Peter Woicke.

Roxas said that the direct budgetary support from the World Bank was significant because it reaffirmed the commitment of multilateral lending agencies to the new administration, which came into power through extra-constitutional means. Both the World Bank and International Monetary Fund have tagged the budget deficit as a priority concern of the government.

Roxas noted that the World Bank was head of a consultative group overseeing the disbursement of $8 billion worth of official development assistance (ODA) loans to developing countries.

He said that the World Bank budgetary support would help in easing the government's financing woes but this would, in no way, solve the budget deficit problem.

"$100 million or $200 million is just P5 billion to P10 billion in peso terms which is a fraction of the P145-billion budget deficit the government is expecting for this year," Roxas said.

The Department of Finance reported yesterday that it incurred a budget shortfall of P6.386 billion in January, or well within expectations.

The new administration had earlier feared that the budget gap would balloon to a record P225 billion, but it has since become more optimistic of hitting between P130 billion and P146 billion this year, more manageable and acceptable considering that it would just be 3.8 percent of gross national product.

The government is hoping to tame the budget deficit through stringent spending measures and improved collections from the Bureau of Internal Revenue and Bureau of Customs.

In its presentation to the IMF, the economic team said tax enhancement measures and higher earnings from privatization could bring the estimated deficit of P145 billion down to an ambitious P80 billion.

The measures to be implemented by the BIR were estimated to add an additional P20 billion to P35 billion while the schemes proposed by Customs were seen to contribute another P20 billion.

Proceeds from privatization of big-ticket items that were earlier pegged at only P7 billion to P10 billion were later estimated to yield as much as P20 billion, based on the documents presented to the IMF.

IFC, 4 others put up RP micro-finance bank

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

INTERNATIONAL Finance Corp., the investment arm of the World Bank, is joining a local bank and three European development institutions in putting up the P100-million Micro Enterprise Bank of the Philippines.

The new thrift bank, which will focus on lending to micro enterprises, is putting up its first branch in Davao.

IFC executive vice president Peter Woicke said other branches in other regions were forthcoming but not in the near future.

He said the investment should help reduce poverty in Mindanao and fuel growth of micro and small businesses in the region heavily affected by prolonged strife through the years.

Woicke said IFC would invest $120,000 for a 10-percent equity in the bank while Planters Development Bank would put in P24 million for a 40-percent interest.

Also participating in the venture were Internationale Micro Investitionen AG, a German microfinance firm that will own 20 percent; Stichting Duurzame Ontwikkeling En Natuurbescherming Postcodeloterij-Doen, a Dutch foundation for sustainable development with another 20 percent; and Netherlands Development Finance Co., another Dutch development firm that would put in 10 percent.

Woicke said the bank would have a paid-in capital of P60 million but with an authorized capital of P100 million.

Jesus Tambunting, president of Planters Development Bank, said they would soon apply for a thrift bank license with the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

The IFC official said the bank would provide competitively priced funding to small local entrepreneurs who have been traditionally "underserved" by normal channels of financing.

Micro-finance lending, Woicke explained, is lending $20 and up to individuals. He said efforts of IFC to expand in micro finance was meant to make an impact when micro lending only affected 2 percent of the population.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura welcomed the new venture of the proponents as he encouraged the new bank to expand immediately in regions like Cebu.

"We have never shied away from difficult areas. We hope to expand in the regions but we were also advised by other proponents not to rush into it," Woicke said.

Woicke said IFC was looking forward to reforms in the financial sector given the prohibitive cost of financial intermediation.

"We urge the Philippines to broaden and deepen its capital markets, offer more instruments for savers and depositors," said the IFC officials who broached his suggestion to President Macapagal-Arroyo, Buenaventura and members of the private sector.

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Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Tuesday, February 20, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	7	7	7	7	10,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	70	70.5	70	70.5	207,300
China Banking Corp.	700	700	700	700	700
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	58	58	56.5	56.5	49,200
Global Business Bank Inc.	64.5	64.5	62	64	5,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	232	232	230	231	20,600
Prudential Bank	470	470	470	470	2,420
Philippine National Bank	35.5	35.5	35.5	35.5	75,600
Rizal Comm'l Bkg Corp. A	28.5	28.5	28.5	28.5	4,200
Security Bank Corp.	25	25	25	25	100,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	28.5	28.5	28	28	69,900
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.68	1.68	1.64	1.64	255,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	20,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1175	1180	1175	1175	4,100
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	100,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	980	990	980	990	2,240
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	49.5	49.5	49	49	10,100
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.71	0.71	0.71	0.71	1,520,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	715	715	715	715	150
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.0525	0.0525	0.0525	0.0525	1,300,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	550,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	10,000
Piltel	0.83	0.83	0.82	0.82	90,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.4	0.4	0.38	0.38	300,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	840	840	820	825	55,990
Ivantage Corp.	1.16	1.16	1.08	1.08	1,048,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.0775	0.0775	0.075	0.0775	48,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	54.5	55	54	54	8,800
Manila Electric Co. B	61	62.5	61	61.5	388,700
Petron Corp.	2	2	1.94	1.94	1,145,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	27,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.38	1.38	1.32	1.32	2,968,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	10,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Alsons Cement Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.25	990,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.54	0.54	0.52	0.52	60,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.88	0.9	0.88	0.9	10,740,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	2.75	2.75	2.7	2.7	53,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	12	12	11.75	12	458,100
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	38.5	38.5	38	38	140,000
RFM Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.26	1.28	1,285,000
San Miguel Corp. A	50.5	51	50	51	119,100
San Miguel Corp. B	61	62	60.5	62	76,500
Universal Robina Corp.	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	20,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.49	0.5	0.49	0.5	600,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	8.2	8.2	8.1	8.2	1,249,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	150,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.7	1.72	1.64	1.64	673,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	12.25	12.25	12	12	2,600
A. Soriano Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	400,000
APC Group Inc.	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	4,540,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0085	0.0085	0.008	0.008	102,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	70,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	10,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	300,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	3.05	3.15	3.05	3.05	3,198,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	10,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.54	0.54	0.54	0.54	20,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.16	0.17	0.16	0.16	350,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.0675	0.0675	0.0675	0.0675	600,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.44	1.48	935,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	24	24.5	24	24	221,300
Global Equities Inc.	0.37	0.38	0.37	0.38	620,000
Guoco Holdings (Phils.)	0.3	0.3	0.26	0.26	810,000
Ionics Inc.	14	14	13.75	13.75	23,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2.8	2.8	2.75	2.75	90,000
Macroasia Corp.	2.04	2.04	2	2	157,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	2,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.95	0.95	0.94	0.95	1,290,000
Magnum Holdings Inc.	2.5	3	2.3	3	17,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	2,240,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.66	0.66	0.64	0.64	3,880,000
Philcomsat Holdings Corp.	2	2	2	2	5,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.78	0.78	0.77	0.77	410,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.39	0.4	5,870,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.3	0.32	0.29	0.32	2,020,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Active Alliance Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	30,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.64	0.64	0.63	0.63	140,000
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	50,000
Interphil Labs Inc. B	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	2,000
Macondray Plastics Inc.	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.4	1,000
Music Corp.	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.2	214,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.8	0.81	0.8	0.81	400,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	12	13	12	12.75	313,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.64	0.65	0.64	0.65	980,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.71	0.73	0.68	0.68	8,290,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	50	50	49	49.5	461,400
Equitable PCI Bank-War	4.35	4.35	4.15	4.15	272,000
Globe Tel. A - Warrants	520	520	520	520	50
Jollibee Warrants	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.75	68,700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series R	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	500
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.75	11	10.75	11	14,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.2	1,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.7	6.7	6.6	6.7	10,608,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	100,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	2,620,000
Cyber Bay Corporation	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	200,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.44	0.44	0.43	0.43	4,110,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	1.6	1.6	1.22	1.22	13,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.8	2,702,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	1,300,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.215	0.22	0.215	0.22	500,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	110,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	700,000
SM Development Corp.	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	160,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.1	7.1	6.9	6.9	6,846,000
Universal Rightfield Prop	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	440,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	1,000,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc B	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	1,000,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	4,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	74,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	9,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.019	0.019	0.019	0.019	2,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.215	150,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.006	0.006	0.0055	0.0055	41,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.006	0.006	0.0055	0.0055	265,000,000
Pacifica	0.018	0.019	0.018	0.019	4,500,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.115	1,060,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.26	200,000

DISCLOSURES

FAIRMONT Holdings Inc. announced the election of Fatima Reyes as corporate secretary and information officer; Renato Piezas as assistant corporate secretary, and Ma. Rosario Justo as treasurer.

* * *

ELECTED officers of **Central Azucarera de Tarlac** were: Pedro Cojuangco, president and chair; Josephine Reyes, vice president and treasurer; Jose Cojuangco Jr., vice president; Ernesto Teopaco, vice president; Bernardo Lahoz, assistant vice president and assistant treasurer; Emmanuel Cochico, assistant vice president; Arcadio Lopez, secretary and Fernando Cojuangco, assistant secretary.

* * *

AYALA Land Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on April 18, 9 a.m. at the Onstage Greenbelt, 2nd level Greenbelt Mall, Makati City. Stockholders of record as of March 6

DISCLOSURES/ B4

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Guest Speakers

Mr. Alfonso. A. Aliga, Jr.
Principal Consultant
Arthur Andersen

Mr. Samuel B. Cruz
Manager, Operation Research Dept.
San Miguel Corp.

Mr. Miguelito G. Reyes
Project Consultant
Arthur Andersen

Mr. Valentin A. Reyes
Facilities Manager
Intel Philippines Manufacturing, Inc.

Mr. Alexander L. Sim
Project Consultant
Arthur Andersen

Mr. Rene T. Domingo
Professor
Asian Institute of Management

Mr. Charlie P. Villaseñor
Chief Operating Officer
Bayan Trade Dot Com, Inc.

Mr. Antonio Z. Pio de Roda
Chief Operating Officer and
Director for Sales and Marketing
Sun Microsystems Phils. Inc.

Dr. Aura C. Matias
Deputy Executive Director
National Engineering Center, UP

Mr. Manuel M. Agustin
Vice President
Strategic Technologies
and Business Planning Inc.

For inquiries/confirmation:
Ms. Evie E. Repotente
PIIE Executive Director
G/F Pacific Coast Plaza,Condominium
Coastal Road, Paranaque City
Tel: (632) 879-8381
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Seminar on Malaysia – Philippines business opportunities

THE EMBASSY of Malaysia in collaboration with the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) and Philippine-Malaysia Business Council, will hold seminar on Malaysia-Philippines Business Opportunities in conjunction with the visit of a Trade and Investment Delegation from Malaysia headed by the Hon. Dato' Seri Rafidah Aziz, minister of International Trade and Industry of Malaysia from March 7 to 10, 2001. The Philippine Business Community interested in doing business with Malaysian is cordially invited to attend the seminar and to meet members of the mission for individual business meetings and business consultation on Thursday, March 8, 2001 at the Heritage Hotel Ballroom, Pasay City from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information on the seminar pre-registration and business meetings, please contact Nancy/Radziah, Embassy of Malaysia at 817-4581 to 85 or 817-4551 to 53 or 892-0969. Fax at 816-3114, email at tradecom@mozcom.com.

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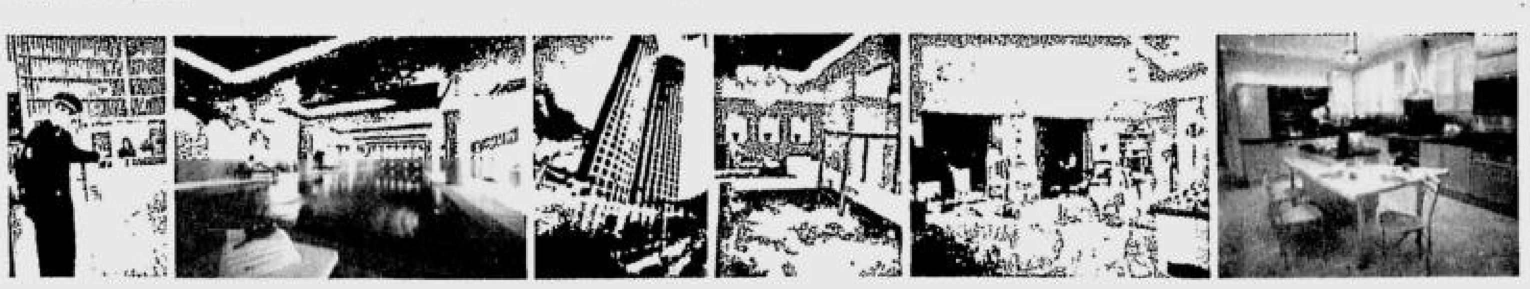

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COCKTALES

By Victor C. Agustin

Mindanao assault

DAVAO subscribers of the INQUIRER who look forward to reading their favorite newspaper while having their first cup of coffee for the day should have reason to rejoice.

The INQUIRER, or more correctly, its sister publishing company, is inaugurating on Friday a Matina-based press that would print the INQUIRER right in the city.

So instead of hitching the availability of this feisty paper to the vagaries of the weather or the mood of airline owners, Davaoeños would now have the INQUIRER seven days a week, 363 days a year (no issues on Good Fridays and Black Saturdays), guaranteed.

The Davao edition should be out by 3 a.m. and should be in the local newsstands within an hour or two, when most Metro Manilans are still snoring away.

Dennis Valdes, president of the INQUIRER printing firm FEP Printing Corp., said the City of Smiles would become the Mindanao hub for the INQUIRER, with the Davao edition being trucked out to the outlying provinces and cities as far away as Cagayan de Oro.

An initial print run of 15,000 is being targeted for Friday, with the circulation doubling when the Cagayan de Oro corridor shall have been sewn up.

That figure may not look large, but 30,000 is equivalent to about three days' circulation of the "national" daily of Teodoro Locsin Jr.

With the air transport expense gone, the Davao edition should now cost the same as the identical Metro Manila edition, which retails at P15 a copy.

However, due to the peculiarities of the distribution and marketing arrangements with the local dealers, the price differential has ironically been maintained.

Strange, since the cost of labor and business is supposedly lower in the provinces.

Pasay's deliverance

THE ARMPIT city of Pasay should now have the chance to redeem itself from its rabbit warren confines and flooded "eskinitas" when City Hall eventually moves out to the reclamation area.

Mayor Wenceslao Trinidad and the Public Estates Authority, which reclaimed the land off Roxas Boulevard, have agreed in principle to settle the multibillion-peso tax liabilities of PEA by paying host Pasay City with 18 hectares of reclaimed land.

Just to give you an idea how big 18 hectares is, the campus of the University of Santo Tomas, including the Central Seminary, is about 16 hectares.

Trinidad, who is seeking reelection, plans to construct a city hall annex and transfer the courts/fiscals' offices there, in addition to building a park/greenbelt area that would rival Rizal Park.

The future city hall/park complex, with a new bayside boulevard that will run parallel with Roxas Boulevard, is adjacent to Metrobank's Metropolitan Park and the future Mall of Asia, taipan Henry Sy's legacy project.

Urban word war

THERE is an interesting three-part e-mail series purportedly written by a "former" banker that details alleged irregularities in the closure of Urban Bank.

Both PDIC president Norberto Nazareno and Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura have seen the series and are willing to debate in print should the banker identify himself by name.

Incidentally, today is the deadline given by the PDIC to Bank of Commerce for it to make good its intention of taking over the shuttered Urban.

But, as of yesterday morning, Bank of Commerce has yet to receive the purported "deadline" letter from Nazareno.

In any case, it looks like Bank of Commerce will no longer push through with the acquisition, especially in the light of the new and more stringent capital adequacy ratios imposed by the Bangko Sentral.

Heard through the grapevine

CAREER Trade Undersecretary Ernesto Ordoñez has accepted the invitation of Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor to transfer and oversee the department's agribusiness concerns.

Ordoñez has been given the green light by Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel Roxas II, on condition that he help find a replacement.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

Groups urge gov't to revamp port agency

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

LOCAL businessmen led by the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Distributors Management Association of the Philippines are urging President Macapagal-Arroyo to clean up the mess left behind by her predecessor and his cronies at the Manila North Harbor.

PCCI vice president Meneleo Carlos said the President's reforms should start with the appointment of a new head at the Philippine Ports Authority and formally rescind the controversial EO 59 which upholds a nationwide port monopoly, discards public bidding, bundles port services and creates a Portworker Social Amelioration Fund. "We cannot move ahead with reforms in PPA and the port industry if the President does not sweep up the mess created by President Estrada," Carlos said.

PCCI and DMAP are members of the Coalition for Ports Modernization, which has been at the forefront in opposing Estrada's EO 59 that gave the North Harbor contract to favored parties—International Container Terminal Services Inc. and Asian Terminals Inc.—through a negotiated bidding.

Carlos said that while Estrada had verbally revoked EO 59, the PPA has been operating as if the order was still in effect to the detriment of port users and operators.

He said this was the reason why the President should formally revoke EO 59 and issue a new order pushing for a multiple contractor scheme, transparency in awarding the contract, and consultation and participation of users and workers in the formulation of shipping policies.

Coalition spokesperson Vicente F. Gambito said PPA general manager Juan Peña should be relieved of his post and investigated for several alleged midnight deals he signed during the final throes of the Estrada administration.

Gambito said the PPA had continued to defy a Court of Appeals ruling which ordered the port watchdog to return cargo-handling operations to Pier 8 at the North Harbor. He said Peña's illegal takeover last year had affected some 4,000 port workers who could not gain access to social benefits from pension funds because of the lingering question on the status of their employers.

Aboitiz helping Walmart enter RP

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

THE ABOITIZ group yesterday confirmed that it was helping US-based Wal-Mart Stores Inc., the world's biggest retailer, obtain a foothold in the newly liberalized Philippine retail market.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, however, Aboitiz & Co. Inc. said no equity partnership in a local retailing business was being discussed.

Industry sources said that if ever Aboitiz decides to enter the retail market in partnership with Wal-Mart, it would likely earmark only a small portion relative to its overall portfolio.

A stock analyst said Aboitiz's interest would primarily be to open up opportunities for its shipping interests once Wal-Mart establishes a local presence rather than seriously venture into retailing itself.

Aside from its shipping business (as a principal of William, Gothong & Aboitiz Inc.), the Cebu-based Aboitiz family controls Union Bank of the Philippines and Pilmico Foods. It also has stakes in various power distribution, generation and energy businesses. The group is currently expanding its nationwide electricity distribution network.

On the other hand, Wal-Mart has long been looking at the possibility of opening shop in the country and has considered becoming a white knight to the cash-strapped Uniwide group.

Although the retail giant can very well afford to enter the Philippine market on its own, it is reportedly also considering partnership with local groups.

Wal-Mart is keen on breaking ground for its first retail store in the Philippines by the middle of this year.

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CAMP JOHN HAY	430,000	BAGUIO CC	700,000
CC AT TAGAYTAY	500,000	MANILA GOLF (CORP)	18,000,000
EAGLERIDGE "B"	800,000	MANILA POLO CLUB	3,000,000
MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	400,000	MANILA SOUTHWOODS "A"	830,000
PUERTO AZUL "A"	145,000	QUEZON CITY SPORTS "A"	225,000
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	925,000	WACK WACK GOLF	9,000,000

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IFC junks All-Asia Capital debt settlement proposal

By Clarissa S. Batino

INTERNATIONAL Finance Corp. has rejected All Asia Capital & Trust Corp.'s offer to settle P800 million in debts through a buy-back arrangement.

Sources said the IFC also threatened to sue All-Asia Capital for failing to settle its debts and to turn around the company's operations six months after its financial woes were made public.

All Asia's outgoing president Francisco del Rosario confirmed that the World Bank's investment arm has turned down the company's offer.

"However, I don't think IFC will go to court, we are still negotiating with them," Del Rosario said.

Efforts to turn around the company's operations were snagged by the political crisis that worsened late last year and scared potential foreign investors away.

Sources said that with the IFC's rejection of the debt settlement offer, All-Asia Capital, once the biggest investment house in the country, now faced the risk of liquidation.

Vipul Prakash, IFC's mission chief acknowledged that the liquidation of All Asia could be one of the options although he refused to give further details.

"We'll have to make a decision within the first quarter but this will likely be a complicated decision. We are not in a position to decide by ourselves," he said.

IFC has extended $17 million in loans to All Asia. It also accounts for 7 percent of the company's equity worth about $3 to $4 million.

All Asia's local shareholders are Antonio Garcia of the Chemical Industries of the Philippines Group, Eusebio Tanco of the Manila Bay Group of Companies, Ramon Abaya of the Cagayan Electric Power and Light Co., the Alcantara and Sons Group or Alsons, Land Bank of the Philippines, and Armed Forces of the Philippines Retirement and Separation Benefits System.

Another foreign investor, aside from IFC, is Lombard Asian Private Investment Co. that bought its 12.8-percent interest in All Asia last year.

All Asia started as a one-product lease financing company in 1980. It has grown into a major player in the financial sector as its interests widened into stock brokerage, life insurance, venture capital fund, strategic investments, pre-need services, mutual funds and utilities.

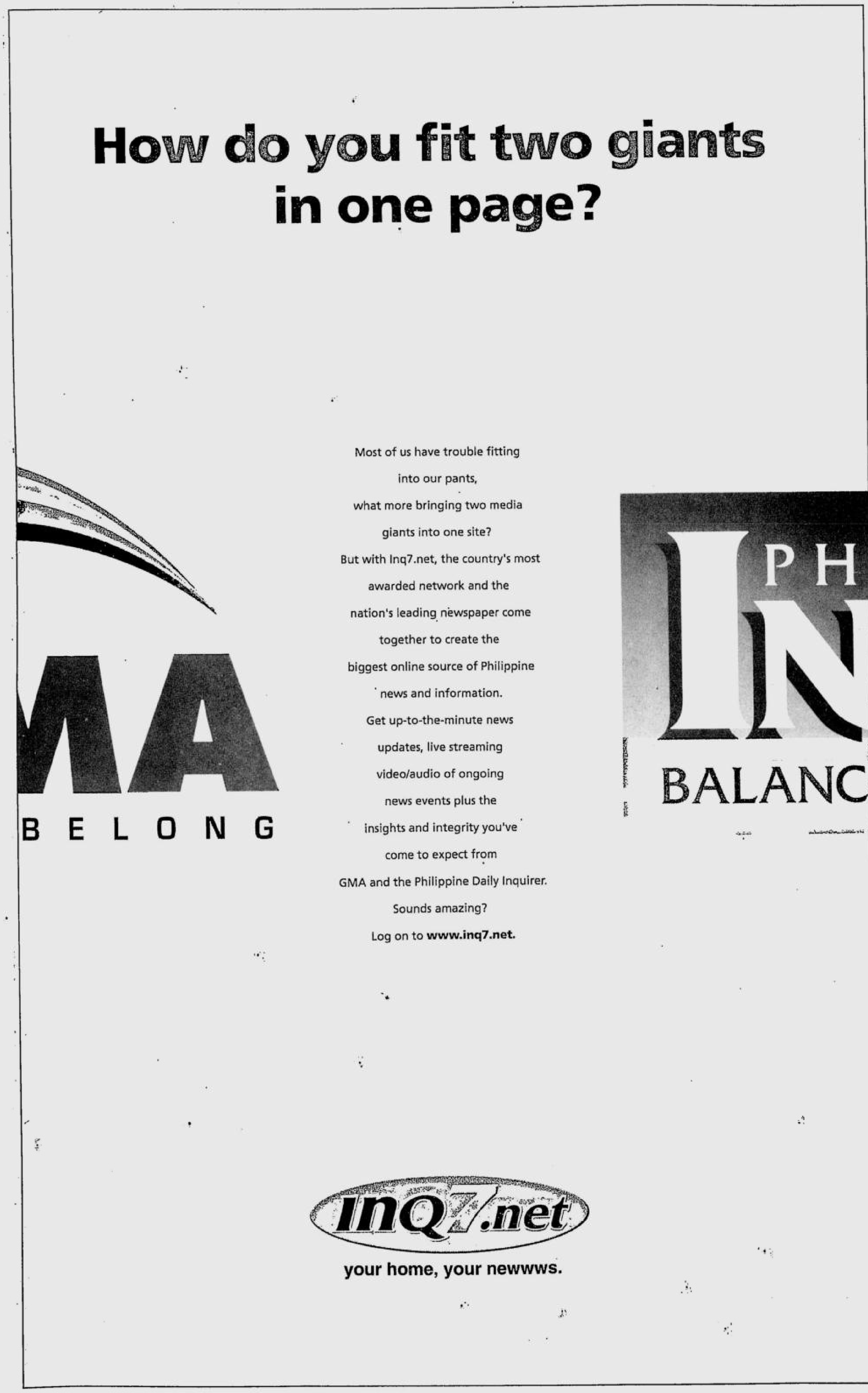
The company's financial problems started when corporate clients, who got jittery after the collapse of Urban Bank and its investment house, pre-terminated their placements causing a cash squeeze in All Asia last year.

Meantime, Del Rosario has resigned from All Asia. He is expected to be appointed president of United Coconut Planters Bank.

CURRENCIES

Feb. 20, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.094691	1.000000	47.6720
Japan	Yen	0.009457	0.008639	0.4118
United Kingdom	Pound	1.584018	1.447000	68.9814
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.140361	0.128220	6.1125
Switzerland	Franc	0.652767	0.596303	28.4270
Canada	Dollar	0.710839	0.649351	30.9559
Singapore	Dollar	0.629494	0.575043	27.4134
Australia	Dollar	0.580799	0.530560	25.2929
Bahrain	Dinar	2.903843	2.652661	126.4577
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.291910	0.266660	12.7122
Brunei	Dollar	0.626432	0.572246	27.2801
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000114	0.000104	0.0050
Thailand	Baht	0.025788	0.023557	1.1230
UAE	Dirham	0.298078	0.272294	12.9808
Korea	Won	0.000881	0.000805	0.0384
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.913500	43.5484
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.467065	22.2659
France	Franc	0.152450	0.139262	6.6389
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.414528	19.7614
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.066387	3.1648
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.022645	1.0795
Italy	Lire	0.000517	0.000472	0.0225
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.153640	7.3243
Portugal	Escudo	0.004989	0.004557	0.2172
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.00549	0.2617
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.022645	1.0795
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.159906	55.2950



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GM to sell Subaru in RP

GENERAL Motors has taken over the distribution and marketing of Subaru brands in the country from Columbian Motors Corp. after the American car giant gained a controlling minority interest in Fuji Heavy Industries Inc.

GM Philippines president and general manager Harold Koh expressed confidence that GM would do better in building up the Subaru brand in the country because it has bigger resources than Columbian.

GM Philippines after-sales manager Antonio Zara said the company's priority was to shore up the Subaru which, although considered a premium Japanese brand, was not well known in the country.

Koh said GM would initially unleash the Forester, Subaru's top-selling, compact sport utility vehicle, in May this year with the Impressa and Legacy likely to follow. Koh said GM would service the Subaru Legacy sold by its predecessor in the country.

Koh said the Forester should give the Toyota Rav 4 and the Honda CR-V a run for their money in the "promising" SUV segment. Although the Forester would compete with the same market catered to by the Suzuki Grand Vitara (which GM distributes in the country), Koh expects to achieve synergy in the two brands by pushing them together.

Koh said GM Autoworld Philippines would be the first GM dealer to sell the Subaru line after GM bought 20 percent in Fuji Heavy Industries for $1.4 billion last year.

The Subaru would push to four the number of brands sold by GM Autoworld after Chrysler, Opel and Suzuki. GM expects to open a fifth branch along Shaw Boulevard this year. Its four branches are in Makati City, Quezon Avenue, Cebu and Pampanga.

Meridian starts ₱2-B expansion

MERIDIAN Telekoms Inc., the country's pioneer in wireless broadband technology, is expanding both its client base and market reach in Metro Manila. In recent months, Meridian has forged agreements with a diverse array of companies and has deployed its technology and services to various businesses throughout the metropolis.

Meridian president Rene Dos Remedios said the company's coverage now spans nearly the entire Metro Manila area.

Meridian's expanding service areas are complemented by a growing client list that includes telecom equipment providers, e-commerce enterprises, systems integrators and value-added resellers, computer hardware and software distributors, and Internet cafes. Meridian also provides broadband service to a number of businesses engaged in real estate, publishing and luxury hotel services.

Meridian's client base reflects a cross-section of broadband users and shows that the service can be a valuable tool for businesses from various industries.

Meridian's pioneer-status incentives from the BOI, which allow duty-free equipment importation for its ambitious P2-billion network expansion program, will aid the company in further increasing its coverage areas to serve more customers. The company sees this commitment as a key to helping Philippine businesses harness the power of the Internet.

Initially, Meridian will focus on small and medium-sized enterprises as well as large corporate clients. However, Dos Remedios says, "Our ultimate goal is to bring our broadband service to households and home users," an undertaking which may take time but which the company feels is vital to the successful spread of broadband technology.

Dos Remedios predicts that in two years' time, Meridian will be able to put in place all of the infrastructure needed to realize its goal of servicing every type of business and household.

Disclosures

(From page B2)

will be entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

THE BOARD of **Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co.** elected Cielito Habito as director to replace Finance Secretary Alberto Romulo.

* * *

ALSONS Cement Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on April 20 with record date set on March 20.

* * *

UNIWIDE Holdings Inc. clarified that it has yet to receive a new offer from American retail giant Wal-Mart. *Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research*

Tariff error costs auto sector ₱100M monthly

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

A GOVERNMENT faux pas in the revision of tariffs on Asian utility vehicles, vans, trucks and buses is costing local assemblers roughly P100 million a month in additional costs.

This was revealed by Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. senior vice president Serafin Pantaleon who urged the government to immediately rectify its glaring error in raising duties on completely knocked down (CKD) parts for trucks and buses from 3 percent to 10 percent over the next three years and to spare the industry from higher duties.

Pantaleon said that the undue 7 percent add-on to their tariffs was no joke considering that commercial vehicles account for over 60 percent of total industry sales. Toyota, which owns the best-selling Toyota Revo AUV, incurred P25 million in additional taxes with the new tariffs.

He said assemblers could hardly afford the tariff hike because demand remained weak despite a slight recovery in sales last year and production costs have escalated due to the depreciation of the peso.

Government officials admit that they made a mistake in raising duties on commercial vehicles (with at least 10 seats) with the issuance of Executive Order No. 334 early last month.

The Truck Manufacturers Association of Philippines noted that the Cabinet-level Tariff and Related Matters has already agreed to maintain the duties of automotive products up to 2004. Only automotive and petrochemicals were granted a tariff freeze up to 2004. At the least, TMAP said automotive products should have maintained their tariffs in 2000 this year just like all of the commodities.

But government officials have yet to determine how can it undo its mistake and how soon to make the correction.

Pantaleon said a major concern of the assemblers was whether the government would reimburse them for the extra duty payments they made resulting from the erroneous EO. "It is but fair for a correction to be retroactive because the mistake was solely the responsibility of the government," Pantaleon said.

Pepsi to get ₱500M in fresh funds

By Doris C. Dumlao

GUOCO Holdings (Phils.) Inc., the holding company of the Guoco conglomerate of Hong Kong, is beefing up the operations of Pepsi-Cola Products Philippines Inc. (PCPPI) aiming to turn around its operations in the next two years.

In an interview after yesterday's stockholders meeting, a Guoco official who refused to be named said Guoco's primary thrust was to strengthen its core assets.

The official said that around P1 billion would be spent this year to strengthen two core subsidiaries, PCPPI and Lepanto Ceramics Inc.

In the case of PCPPI, the official said Guoco Holdings and Pepsi-Cola of New York would pump in at least P500 million yearly to improve Pepsi's local operations. He said it was necessary to shore up investments in the bottling company especially now that major competitor Coca-Cola has found a much-needed boost in its local operations with the scheduled takeover of San Miguel Corp.

In a report to stockholders, PCPPI said its market share had been growing despite the shrinking market from 17.5 percent to an all-time high of 20.7 percent in fiscal year 1999 to 2000. Its sales posted a 4.7-percent growth in volume as against the industry decline of 11.8 percent.

"Strict discipline was being instilled to actively manage its operations in a defined resource management to seek optimal use of its existing assets and capital expenditure. The debt levels of the company were prudently managed to enable it to sustain with resilience and to manage growth and resource deployment within the financial capability and constraints of the company," the holding company said in its annual report.

Guoco owns a 35.98-percent stake in PCPPI through holding company Orion Brands International Inc.

The group also bared plans to infuse P400 million to P600 million to wholly owned Lepanto Ceramics this year. The official also said the holding firm was talking to Guoco Ceramics (Guocera) of Malaysia, which is likewise part of the Guoco conglomerate, to invest some P200 to P300 million in the company.

The official said Lepanto Ceramics was keen on expanding its market to South America, Hong Kong, Singapore and Europe.

Lepanto Ceramics, the fully automated ceramic tile manufacturer in the country, is the second largest in the industry. Over the past two years, however, its operations have been seriously weakened by heavy debt service.

Among the holding firm's subsidiaries, the most profitable is Tutuban Properties Inc., which operates the 133,391-square-meter integrated shopping center in Manila's Chinatown area.

Napocor bids out fuel supply contracts

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE NATIONAL Power Corp. went ahead yesterday with a public auction to service its fuel requirements despite an order from the Bureau of Internal Revenue suspending the auction.

Bidding documents showed that three new players went head-to-head with the country's "Big Three" refiners to secure P10.9 billion worth of contracts.

Subic Bay Distribution Inc., Total Petroleum Philippines Corp. and Flying V—"new kids" in the oil distribution bloc—submitted bids to supply Napocor with bunker fuel and diesel. Their proposals would be up against those tendered by Petron Corp., Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. and Caltex Philippines Inc., the country's three biggest oil firms.

"We are satisfied with the turnout of bidders. A majority of those who qualified showed up," said Reynaldo David, chair of Napocor's bidding committee.

The contract period covers the supply and delivery of bunker fuel and diesel to all of Napocor's power plants from April this year to end-March next year. Napocor's fuel needs for this period was estimated at 1.24 million kiloliters.

David said the winning bids would be determined in a week.

Internal revenue officials suspended last week Napocor's fuel supply auctions to determine whether these transactions should be tax-exempt.

Appointees of the new administration to the BIR want to review Napocor's tax-exempt privileges.

The Macapagal administration is trying to raise its tax collections this year to plug holes that have been causing the budget deficit to swell. Economists estimate the deficit this year may hit P200 billion.

Napocor is a prime target because it enjoys some P300 million to P600 million in tax exemptions annually.

The oil industry deregulation law provides that "for as long as Napocor enjoys exemptions from taxes and duties on petroleum products purchased for power generation, the exemption shall apply to purchases through a local refiner and to the importation of fuel oil and diesel."

A 1987 board resolution issued by the Department of Finance, which supervises the BIR, determined that as a government-owned and -controlled corporation, "Napocor is exempt from paying taxes and duties on its petroleum purchases."

The government has slapped a 3-percent tariff equivalent to 29 to 30 centavos a liter on imported crude and refined petroleum. It also imposes a specific tax of about 63 centavos a liter for every liter of diesel sold.

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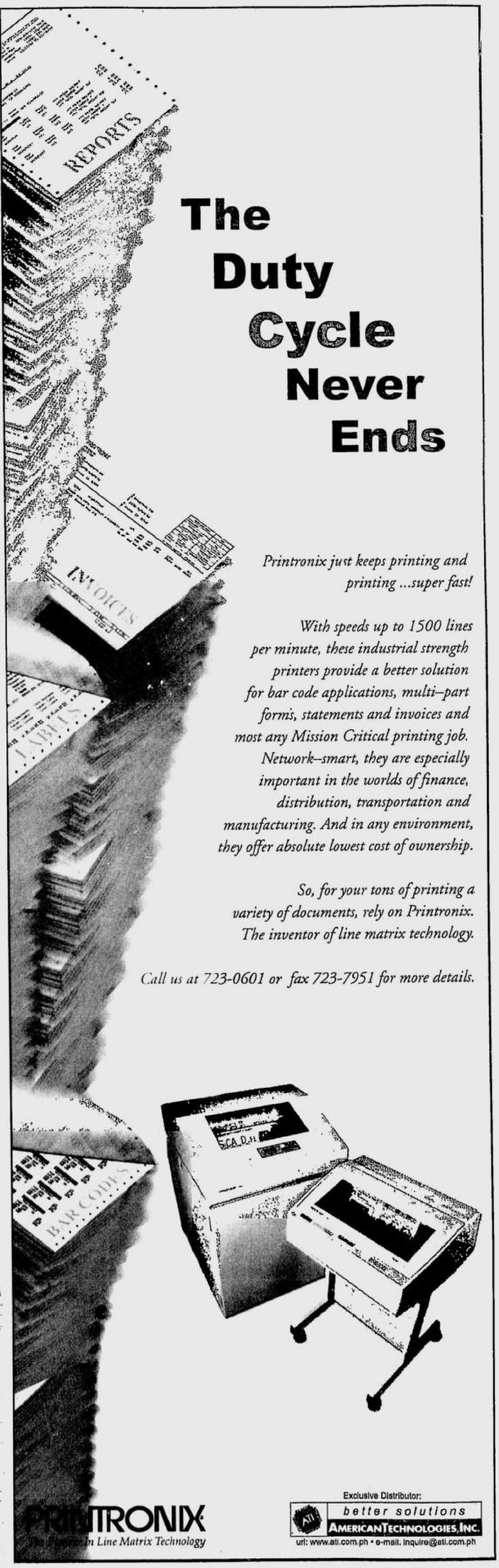

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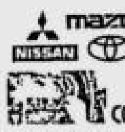

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- Computer literate is a must
- Between 30-40 years old

TECHNICIAN / MAINTENANCE

Qualifications:

- B.S. Electrical/Mechanical Engineer and has experience in the operation of boiler, extruders, roll mills machines with 5 years experience in a manufacturing firm
- Experienced in maintenance job

PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR

Qualifications:

- College graduate, preferably experienced in a manufacturing firm
- Male/Female, age between 30-40 years old
- Must be hard-working, commited, honest and courteous
- With good supervisory skills and strong leadership qualities

ACCOUNTING CLERK

Qualifications:

- Male/Female
- College graduate
- 30 years old below

SEND YOUR BIO-DATA WITH 2x2 PICTURE AND CREDENTIALS TO P.O. BOX 1394, QUEZON CITY ZIP CODE 1153 OR CALL 939-7884.

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

MANDALUYONG

Various Mandaluyong Townhouses 534-6610 Jojo

Various Wack-Wack Condo Lee Gardens 5346610 Jojo

Wack' Tower 28 3TB Mds Rm 1ps P5.5M • 911-7940

MARIKINA

Nr. Ateneo TH Cinco Mkna Bnew 4BR FA350 681-9868

MARIKINA HTS
2BR w/provision for attic & 2nd T&B, all concrete
P900T only
921-5033 / 913-1737

PASIG

11M Beautiful HSE South Bay Paranaque 141-259275

6.5M Townhse Kawilihan Vill Pasig 141-259275

CONDO UNIT 123BR's Ortigas Ctr Tel.#533-5525

SACRIFICE SALE 5.2M 3BR Phoenix Hts Condo4121825

Nr C5 FA62m² 3BR 2TB 1.7M 0%Int 5yrs 645-3731

Nr C5 Res/Com TH 6M 3St FA156 0%Int 5yrs 645-3731

Pacific Place Ortigas 3BR 3TB Pkg SF 3.9M 6352115

Pasig 3M BN 140FA 89LA 4BR 3TB Nice • 645-3731

Renaissance 3BR 199m²@ 8.9M 223m² @9.5M 681-2457

QUEZON CITY

Cubao CondoP1.3M EZterm 9126976/9132224/4381480

Cubao 17door Apt Fully Conc Fin. 13M 645-3731

Nr G'hill 2BR 2TB 87m² BN RFO Nice Loc • 645-3731

Mapayapa Vill Thse P2.2M Terms Call 412-1652 Jen

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

QUEZON CITY

New Mla 172m² Bnew 6M 2Sty 3BR w/2CG 413-4411

Nova P5T/mo.10yrs 9390299

Nr Ateneo FA149m² LA72 4M 3BR 2BT • 645-3731

Nr EDSA Dplex 3BR LA80 FA80 BN nice loc • 645-3731

Nr EDSA FA64 LA50 2TB BN nice loc 2.7M 645-3731

Nr West Ave F230m² 4.2M 3BR 4TB 2CG New 4134411

Panay Thse QC Newly Ren. 3Sty 5BR P5M • 928-3267

Scout Area 3BR 3TB 2CG MR w/TB 5.5M • 928-2497

**Scout Townhse 115m² LOT 280m² 3Sty 5M Nice 9283267

Sta Mesa Hts 120m² 4.5M 3Sty 4BR w/2CG 413-4411

Teachers Vill QC 3BR 2TB 1CG P2.5M • 928-2497

Teresa Hts Bung 240m² 4br nr SM Fview 3.5M 9283267

SAN JUAN

South Admiral 490 sqm Rush! • Pager 1277-37052

Annapolis GH Condo 3BR 170m² Nice MdsRm 9283267

**Annapolis Greenhills Condo 2-3Br 7-8M 9283267

Eisenhower Comm'l Unit 53.80sqm • T531-3742

Francis Court San Juan LA200 FA269 • 928-2497

G'hills Condo 3BR P5.5M w/Huge Balcony •723-2391

G'hills Ofc Condo 70m² w/ Pkrg FFur P3.2M 723-2391

Ghills 3BR FFurn FA138 Bful View P5.5M 7232391

Greenhill Condo 1BR FA70 P3M • 723-2391

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

SAN JUAN

Greenhills Anapolis Condo 3BR P9-11M • 723-2391

Greenhills Eisenhower St. 3br Condo P6-8M 723-2391

Greenhills Ofc Condo 70m² w/Prkg P31M • 723-2391

Greenhills Thse 3BR FA180 2CarGrg • 723-2391 P6.8M

SAN JUAN CONDO 3BR 137 P4M • 723-2391

Eisenhower Twr 53.8sqm Furnished • 531-3742

Wack² Twin 2BR FA145 Facing Golf Crse 723-2391

PROVINCIAL

TH nr Marcos Hway Baguio FA108 71.7M • 911-7940

OTHER AREAS

**Sct Madrinan Twnhse 7.4M 3Stry 2Pkg 230m² 5221651

Sunrise Hill Tagaytay Royale Studio Facing pool 1.8M 9215479 / 4337194

VARIOUS AREAS

Various Condo Ortigas, Pasig, Manda. 5346610 Jojo

MEMORIAL LOT

Heritage Park Main Road Lawn @ P97T • 534-7949

RESORT

Fairways & Bluewater w/ Certificate C1 • 534-7949

CLUB SHARE & MEMBERSHIP

Fairways & Bluewater w/ Certificate C1 • 534-7949

FONTANA SHARES 200T 928-3267 • 714-2867

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

FACTORY/WHSE

**Alab-Munl LA3000m² w/Whse FA2200m² Suc. Rd 643-5313

FARM/FISHPEN

FARM LOT 1.8 Has Baras Rizal along Hway 681-9668

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

KALOOCAN

2T8 Briones 7Ave., 3665197 S/T

MAKATI

2BR Scrn grg 15T 8443622

MANILA

1BR 1TB P60T @732-3957

2BR 1TB Resd'l Unit 942 Panay • Tel.# 715-5271

Nr UST 7313570 / 7439664

QUEZON CITY

RES'L APTS
1)DNDrive Tallpapa near Baker's E & Makro 2)Del Nacia nr Sauyo Elem sch 3743637;3743175;3744265

HOUSE

ALABANG

AyalaBang 4BRDN 5TB Gdn Lanal Spol 150T 8524951

MAKATI

SANLO 3BR
T # 5268048 & 49

QUEZON CITY

Ldies nr UP Diliman 5243126

PROVINCIAL

Angeles City Nr Clark 572m² w/Bung. P9T/mo 532-9257

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

**Amorsolo East Rockwell 1Br Pkg FF 50T 8253244

**Le Metroploe Salcedo 3br 2pkg 175m² FF 80T 8253244

STUDIO 14K Neg. 637-7583

MANILA

1BR 2TB Prkng Tel Nr La Salle St Scho Call 4009407

PARANAQUE

2BDRM 2T&B BF HOMES PQUE TEL. 8071245 12T/M

PASAY

Antel Seaview Roxas 1BR Studio 13-15T/mo 928-3267

PASIG

**Phoenix Hgt Nr VVerde 1Br 75m² Pkg 30T 8253244

Alexandra 3BR@P55T/mo FF Ren 3BR UF P40T 681-2457

Ortigas Clr Bnew 2BR T-4337159 / 0919-2079905

Valle Verde Thse 3BR 2Prkg Pool P25T/mo up 681-2457

VVerde6 FA250 3BR Attic P40T/mo • 723-2391

QUEZON CITY

P4,800/mon Cubao
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Call 911-3361; 924-1402

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1BR1TB Balcony & Laundry fully furn w/ 1crprk total area 67.73m²@ mo.Ignacia Ave 3638883 Cora / Vivian

PROJ. 6 NEAR 7-11 NEW CONDO UNITS FOR RENT STUDIO & 2BDRM 9251059

SAN JUAN

2-3BR Ghills Furn Condo P25T • Pager 1277-37052

2BR 3TB Le Gran Condomn GREENHILLS •824-7758•

Eisenhower Comm'l Unit 53.80sqm • T531-3742

Greenhills SEV Studio 3BR P18-40T • 723-2391

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

CONDO/TWNHSE

VARIOUS AREAS

CONDO MAKATI/ORTIGAS 2-3BR's • Tel.# 533-5525

New Townhse F'Furnished Mandaue, Cebu 35T call 3454932 / 0917-3354116

FOR LEASE

Comm'l/Office/Residential TEL. 8071245 BF Paranaque

LOT 4 LEASE
1)Salvia St cor Q-Hiway Frt Robinson Bside Seaoil 2)Visayas Avenue Bside Planters Bank Call 3743637;3743175;3744265

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Sn Pedro Lag. 8086006/07

MALATE OFFICES 5268048

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Comml Resdl 30m² & up 9T up Good for Grocer Drugs Foods Dental Optical Bank Branch 2038 Mabuhay St. Sta. Ana
563-9649/561-5411

Concrete Bldg w/ 2flr Total Area 2400m² w/ prkg space 4 Truck located @ Araneta Univ. Vill. Malabon M.M. Call 363-8883 Cora / Vivian

PSE HIFLR 280m² 3Exe Rms HIFLR 4121825 150341394

Office Space Makati 75m² Up • Call Tel.# 533-5525

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PREGIO 98 345T 731-3492

MERCEDES

MB100D 98 395T 731-3492

MITSUBISHI

'94 LANCER TAXI CAB P150T • Tel.# 658-2410

Galant 99 VR6 A/T Silver 0917-8192224 • 931-8609

TOYOTA

2000XE P462T 7Tkm 718-0204

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•Mitsubishi Lancer MX•
Model 1999
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HYUNDAI

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STAREX 99 545T 7313492

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Isuzu Forward P400T Neg 6W-6Bg-1A Dropside 5329257

Used Dump Trucks
Tel. 2916641 / 2916565

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CARS FOR RENT

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CARS•VANS•0978113•8955888 BUS•CSTER•BRIDAL•8969956

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FX Cheap 373-0564 Cathy

L300 T 4161105 / 7411356

MB100 Hi-Ace Starex 9483535

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STAREX L3 9121809/7268388
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CARS FOR RENT

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WANTED TO BUY

BUYING USED CARS 8990215

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CAR LOAN

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2% w/oTaking Car 3646928

1.5% Fast Car Loan 3670169

1.5% w/o taking car OR/CR R/EstateLoan LO%4154936

2% w/o taking car 7262780

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ROLEX
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NIKON FT w/lens & flash P8000 Eric 645-0173

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33 Classes of Broodstocks
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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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Doctor & Skin Therapist 4 Skin Clinic w/exp. Call Dr.A. Umali 7235265; 7219227

Office SEC. w/ Computer Knowledge Apply w/ Photo 7677 Jacinto St, (Near Washington) Makati City

MALE/FEMALE

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National Power Corporation
Generation Company 1
161 A. Bonifacio Drive Port Area, Manila 1018

GENCO-1

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

(PQ0101RCC-001)

The GENCO-1 Regional Contracts Committee (RCC) is inviting contractors to prequalify and to bid for the **SUPPLY OF LABOR, TOOLS/EQUIPMENT, PARTS/ CONSUMABLES AND SUPERVISION FOR TWO (2) YEARS MAINTENANCE SERVICES OF AIRCONDITIONING SYSTEM OF GENCO-1 BUILDINGS.**

Application for prequalification is open to all Filipino contracting firms with valid license or business permit to undertake the works/services described herein.

Prequalification Forms shall be available for issuance starting **February 19** to **March 02, 2001** at the Contracts Management Office (CMO), 3rd Floor, NPC GENCO-1 Building, 161 Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila. Applicants shall be issued Prequalification Form upon presentation of original copy of the applicant's DTI/SEC Certificate, together with the Letter of Intent and payment of a non-refundable fee of Two Hundred (P200.00) per copy.

For purposes of prequalification and bidding activities, the following schedule will be observed:

- Submission of Prequalification Documents - **March 08, 2001** - 8AM to 5PM
- Issuance of Bid Documents - **April 17, 2001** - 8AM to 5PM
- Pre-bid Conference - **April 20, 2001** - 10AM
- Submission and Opening of Bids - **April 30, 2001** - 10AM

The NPC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason; waive any required formality therein and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is the most advantageous to the Corporation. The NPC assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparations of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

Additional information will be furnished upon request. Address all communication/s to the undersigned at the aforementioned address.

(Sgd.) **LORNA T. DY**
Officer-In-Charge, RAFS
And Chairman, RCC

(PDI - Feb 17, 21 & 27, 2001)

Republika ng Pilipinas
Pambansang Korporasyon Sa Elektrisidad
(NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION)

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID
AD NO. PD 2001-11

Bidding Date : March 15, 2001 10:00 AM
Pre-Bid Conference : March 12, 2001 2:00 PM
(Sampaguita Room)

SERVICE CONTRACTS FOR PARCELLARY MAPPING AND INVESTIGATION SURVEY:

I. **GROUND CONTROLS, PLAN/PROFILE & STAKE OUT, TOPO/DIAGONAL PROFILE OF TOWER SITES FOR 110 KMS. TRANSMISSION 69 KV ST/SC CABAROQUIS-CASIGURAN**
II. **RELOCATION AND SUB-DIVISION SURVEY OF AFFECTED MAIN/SUB-LOTS FOR TAP TALAVERA/QUEZON/GUIMBA 69-KV T/L PROJECT (24.2 KMS.); AND**
III. **RELOCATION AND SUBDIVISION SURVEY OF AFFECTED MAIN/SUB-LOTS FOR PUERTO PRINCESA-ROXAS 138 KV ST/SC T/L PROJECT (111.12 KMS) PER TERM OF REFERENCE**

Interested parties are invited to prequalify and to submit sealed bids on the above using TWO ENVELOPE SYSTEM to be opened publicly at the Sampaguita Rm. Ground Floor, Bldg. 2, NPC-OBC, Quezon Avenue cor. Agham Rd., Diliman, Quezon City.

Accreditation forms will be issued at the Accreditation and Bidding Support Services, Materials Management Department, Ground Floor, Bldg. 2, NPC-OBC, Diliman, Quezon City, upon presentation of this advertisement clipping, payment of P50.00 which is non-refundable, submission of company's TIN and proof of listing at the telephone directory starting February 21, 2001. Deadline for submission of duly accomplished forms on **March 2, 2001.**

Bidding documents will be issued from **March 5 to 9, 2001** upon payment of P200.00 which is non-refundable, presentation of original Certificate of Accreditation and supplier's number (DCE) at the Accreditation and Bidding Support Services.

Issuance of accreditation forms and bidding documents **mornings only**, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. For inquiries please call no. **921-2574.**

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any defect therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the corporation.

PBAC - SERVICE CONTRACTS OF PARCELLARY MAPPING AND INVESTIGATION SURVEY FOR 69KV TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT
NPC-OBC (Head Office), Diliman, Q.C.

(PDI - Feb 21 & 26, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
LEYTE INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
Tacloban City
Tel. Nos. 321-2185 & 321-2186

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Leyte Institute of Technology is inviting prospective bidders to pre-qualify and to bid for the supply of **ONE (1) UNIT GENERATING SET 250 KVA PERKINS BRAND.**

Pre-qualification form and other requirement may be secured from the Supply Office, Leyte Institute of Technology, Tacloban City.

SCHEDULE OF BIDDING

1. Pre-Bid Conference — **March 6, 2001**
2. Deadline of Submission of Pre-qualification requirement — **March 16, 2001**
3. Opening of Bids — **March 28, 2001**

Financial proposal shall be accompanied by a bidder's bond either in the form of GSIS Bond, Cashier/Manager's Check and or Cash Bond of at least 5% of the total bid price.

The Leyte Institute of Technology reserves the right to reject any or all bids waive and defect or informality, assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or loss that they may incur in the preparation of their bid and to accept the bid most advantageous to the Agency.

(Sgd.) **GREGORIO T. DE LA ROSA**
President

(PDI - Feb 19 21 & 23 2001)

QUEZON METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT

Lucena City
Tel. Nos. 71-33-52; 71-28-55

INVITATION TO BID

The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the **Japan Bank of International Cooperation (JBIC)** under the **20th Yen Credit Package** to finance the cost of the **Quezon Metropolitan Water District (QMWD) Water Supply System Comprehensive Improvement Program.** As its equity participation in said Program, the QMWD will undertake and finance the cost of the **PAGBILAO-LUCENA Transmission Lines Project** which is a component part of the said Improvement Program.

The QMWD invites Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA) accredited Suppliers to submit sealed bids for the supply of 250 mm diameter Pipes and Fittings for its **Pagbilao-Lucena Transmission Lines Project.**

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information and Bidders Tender Form starting **February 21, 2001** until **March 14, 2001** from the PBAC Secretariat at Rel-V, Ibabang Dupay, Lucena City upon presentation of original certificate of accreditation issued by LWUA.

Opening of bids will be on 30 March 2001, 2:00 p.m. at QMWD Conference Room.

QMWD reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any informalities in the bid received and to award the contract to bidder whose bid, as evaluated, is the most advantageous to the QMWD.

ENRICO R. PASUMBAL
General Manager

(PDI - Feb 21 & 28, 2001)

PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

STARGEM PAWNSHOP
26-A E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave. QC we sell all expired pledges on Mar. 1, 2001 at 9A.M. J. Enriquez Lic. Auctioneer

UNIGEM PAWNSHOP BR.-1
74-Old J.P.Rizal St., Tayug, Calumapang Marikina City we sell all expired pledges on Mar. 1, 2001 at 9:00A.M. Lic. Auctioneer J. Enriquez

UNIGEM PAWNSHOP
3-E N. Ramirez St., Q.C. we sell all expired pledges on March 1, 2001 at 9A.M. J. Enriquez Lic. Auctioneer

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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Call M/S Young 9484428

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CUSTOMER CARE 6429806

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JEWELRY NO CAPITAL CONSIGN Term Must be Employed 2778166

RTW Factory Price 7299681

Telemarketing 651-0616

TRAVEL OPPOR 893-7903

TShirt Fac.Price 4383147

V'oke Bar&Rest A'con 7193020

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estate of the late **ERNESTO P. GALANG** was extrajudicially settled w/absolute sale among his heirs under Doc. #9726; Page 92; Book 31; Series 2001 of Atty. Danilo B. Banares, Notary Public of Makati City.
(PDI- Feb. 7, 14, & 21, 2001)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is given on the lost of **CGCC Stock Certificate No. 0015 in the name of Michael R. Yniquez.** If no contest received new certificate will be issued.
PDI--Feb. 21,28 Mar 7,2001

Notice is given that ACR No. E059734 under the name of **MARI JANE AKARURU** was lost. *(PDI-Feb. 7, 14 & 21, 2001)*

ARE YOU A FILIPINO - JAPANESE?

All Filipino citizens with Japanese ancestry,
Now is your chance to be trained for free and
Have a guaranteed job in Japan.
Please bring documents that would show
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PLEASE CALL : Tel. No. 893-1191
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Unit 411 Perla Mansion Condominium
C. Palanca St., Legaspi Village, Makati City
Mondays to Fridays 8:00 - 11:00 AM only.
NO PROCESSING FEES.

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that Stock Certificate No. 419 comprising 41,833 shares of the Philippine Daily Inquirer issued in the name of Excel Equities, Inc. has been declared lost and the same is hereby cancelled.
(PDI- Feb. 14, 21 & 28, 2001)

Notice of Loss
This is to inform to the public that shares of stocks at **Far East Univ. registered in the name of Reynaldo S. Navarro** was lost sent by mail specified as follows:

1 Cert#24838 1 Share
2 Cert#23087 1 Share
3 Cert#21839 2 Shares
4 Cert#10505 5 Shares

PDI--Feb. 21, 28 March 7, 2001

PUBLIC NOTICES

PERSONAL

NOVENA TO THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS AND SAINT JUDE

May the most Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, blessed, loved, adored and glorified throughout the whole world now and forever. Amen.
Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Pray for us.
St. Jude, worker of miracles, helper for the helpless, pray for us.
Say nine times a day for nine days. Prayer will be answered by the eighth day, it has never failed.
Thank you very much, Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and St. Jude, for favor granted.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Please be informed of our new classified advertising rates effective **February 1, 2001 issue.**

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS
(National Edition)

Box Ad - P230.00/col. cm.
Line Ad - P 65.00/line
Obituaries - P230.00/col. cm.

JOB MARKET
(Metro Manila Edition)

Box Ad - P190.00/col. cm.

Color Surcharge for NC and JM

1 spot color - 30%
2 spot color - 60%
Full color - 80%

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PROCUREMENT & PROPERTY MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
Building 255, SBMA Centre, Barryman Road, Subic Bay Freeport Zone,
Olongapo City, Philippines 2222
Tel. Nos. 252-4214 • 4124-4281 Fax No. (63-47) 252-4284

sbma

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID FOR THE SALE OF ASSORTED CUT LOGS "AS IS, WHERE IS"

I **ITEM DESCRIPTION/LOCATION**
Assorted cut log of different sizes and kind Stockpiled/located at Tipo TLS, Project Site, SBMA on "AS IS, WHERE IS" basis.
SCHEDULE OF BIDDING
March 14, 2001, 2:00 PM
(Wednesday)

II Only accredited lumber trader and sawmill operators are invited to the bidding and are requested to submit the following Pre-qualification documents at the Procurement and Property Management Department (PPMD), Room 201, 2nd Floor, Bldg. 255, SBMA at the Subic Bay Freeport Zone.
  1. Certificate of Accreditation from Trade and Tourism Group or PPMD, SBMA.
  2. Latest Income Tax Return (ITR) of the bidder (1999) or copies of Audited Financial Statement of the Company and Certification of Cash Deposit by a reputable bank.

III. Deadline for submission of Pre-qualification Papers is on February 28, 2001, Wednesday (5:00 pm).

IV Pre-Bid Conference and Issuance of Forms (P250.00 per set) will be on March 7, 2001, Wednesday (3:00 PM).

V. Bid Bond. In the form of cash or manager's check equivalent to ten percent (10%) of the total bid price in favor of SBMA, is required.

VI. Sealed Bid in prescribed form shall be received until 2:00 PM on March 14, 2001 at the Procurement and Property Management Department (PPMD), Room 201, 2nd Floor, Bldg. 255, SBMA at the Subic Bay Freeport Zone.

VII. For other information, inquiries and/or request for inspection, call Tel No. (047) 252-4214/ 4424/4501 (c/o Danny Sanchez).

VIII. SBMA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality found therein or to reject/accept such bids as may be deemed most advantageous to SBMA.

(Sgd.) **ANTONIO A. INOCENTES**
DA for Admin
Chairman, Disposal, Bids & Awards Committee, SBMA

(PDI--Feb. 21, 22 & 23, 2001)

INQUIRER TRIVIA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

Battery alphabet

Q. How come there are no A- and B-sized batteries?

A. The have long been obsolete. A- and B-sized batteries once existed as component cells within much larger zinc-carbon battery packs. The A cells provided the low-voltage supply for the filaments in vacuum tubes used to supply power to early radios and crank phones. These original batteries are no longer in production because it's simply impractical to have a battery larger than the device it powers. Of course, as electronic gadgets have gotten smaller, so have the batteries that power them. As might be expected, the A cell came first, then B, C, and D cells. The batteries were lettered in descending order of size. For example, as cells smaller than the original A cells were developed, they were designated as AA and then AAA, and now here's the even smaller AAAA.

Take a Tip. To prolong the life of batteries, store them away from hot spots in the house or car and keep them out of the sun. Best of all, store them in the refrigerator, wrapped in a plastic bag to keep moisture out, but let them warm to room temperature before using. Also, if you can avoid it, don't mix old batteries with new. The new ones can put stress on the old ones, causing them to leak acid.

Pinoy First. A landmark in Philippine film history was 'Vicente Salumbides' *Miracles of Love* (1926), which starred Elizabeth "Dimples" Cooper, Hermogenes Ilagan and Salumbides himself. Local audiences were treated for the first time to a number of cinematic devices such as close-up shots, Hollywood-style makeup, fast-cutting, and stream-of-consciousness techniques.

WORD WATCH

Gaffer (gaf'er) : in Hollywood jargon, the chief electrician on a set or in a studio.

PDI—February 21, 2001

UN REPORT

Poverty plan failing

ROME—The United Nation's agricultural development agency has admitted it is failing to achieve its targets for cutting global poverty.

The Rome-based International Fund for Agricultural Development said it would not meet its objective, set at a 1995 conference, to reduce world poverty by 50 percent by 2015, "with only 10 million people escaping poverty annually, instead of the expected 30 million."

It said the failure to achieve its target would hit parts of Africa particularly hard: "Globally, the rate of poverty reduction in 1990-1999 was less than one third of that needed to halve poverty in the period 1995-2015, and six times too slow in sub-Saharan Africa."

The report explains that this problem is relatively recent: "Poverty and hunger fell massively in 1975-1990, mainly thanks to rural and agricultural development, but this has stalled during the last decade.

"The share of international aid for agriculture and rural development, for least-developed countries and activities relevant to the rural poor has been small and is still falling.

"The rural sector has been largely neglected in spite of it having a strong concentration of poor people," adding that "the real value of aid fell sharply between 1988 and 1998."

Pietro Turilli, an Ifad economist who presented the report, said this fall in aid was based on a misconception that the main poverty problem had moved from the countryside to the cities. *AFP*

US slowdown to pressure Asia to adopt reforms: World Bank

THE ECONOMIC slowdown in the United States will force Asian nations to implement reforms in the private sector that many of them have tried to evade for the last three-and-a-half years, according to the World Bank.

Driven by the booming US economy, much of Asia has been growing strongly after being mired in a recession following a financial crisis that erupted in mid-1997.

But with growth slowing in the world's biggest economy, Asia's economic expansion will also be hit.

Against such a scenario, the region had little alternative but to speed up reforms to strengthen the economy and enhance investment flows, World Bank group managing director Peter Woicke told AFP at the end of a seven-nation regional tour.

"The biggest issue in Asia which has to be addressed in most of the countries is really the willingness to restructure companies," said Woicke, also the executive vice president of the International Finance Corp., a World Bank arm promoting private sector investment in developing countries.

The Asian financial crisis exposed the weaknesses of the region's companies that foundered as a result of over-borrowing in foreign currencies.

Experts had recommended painful restructuring of these companies so that the banks that lent them money could also tackle the resultant problem of snowballing non-performing loans.

But many Asian nations circumvented the restructuring process and delayed corporate governance and other financial reforms because their economies had started growing again rapidly after the financial crisis.

What Asian companies needed now was not more borrowings or lendings but more equity, Woicke said.

"In order to get the equity, companies have to restructure so that banks can face up to the problem of NPLs (non performing loans)," he said. "But everything is at a standstill because they don't want to restructure."

Delayed restructuring of companies has dampened the capital ratios of banks, which are reeling from bad loans.

This deprived banks from providing loans to genuinely healthy companies, dampening investments and curtailing growth. "This vicious circle has got to be broken," Woicke said.

He said the booming economy of the United States had helped absorb much of Asia's exports and pulled the region out of recession shortly after the financial crisis.

But US economic growth has abruptly slowed with predictions of a deepening downturn.

"But sad as it is, I think it (the US slowdown) is going to foster the reform process in Asia," Woicke said, citing Indonesia, Thailand and South Korea in particular.

"I think for a while there was the view in these countries that you can grow out of this restructuring problem by having fast growth again. But this is not feasible or doable," he said.

Woicke said the reform situation in Southeast Asia particularly "is not as good as I would like to see it" and warned that if the region did not buck up, it could lose to China the battle of wooing long-term foreign investments.

"Clearly, the (Southeast Asian) countries are not seeing enough long term investments. We see interest to invest in these countries but it is still much less than it was three, four or five years ago," he said. *AFP*

Nortel's Roth brushes off lawsuits

TORONTO—Nortel Networks Corp. chief executive John Roth brushed off class action lawsuits and a battered stock price on Monday, reiterating his dire view of the US economy as he joked about the need for a bodyguard.

Nortel's stock plunged 33 percent on Friday and sent shudders through world markets after the company issued a warning that it would post a loss in the first quarter, blaming a severe slowdown in the US economy.

But despite media speculation that his job was now on the line, Roth said Nortel's board committed to keeping him on as head of the world's No. 1 supplier of fiber-optic telecommunications network equipment for at least another year.

The comments were made at a gathering of the Canadian Club at a Toronto hotel to a packed house that Roth said was better attended than recent appearances by Russian President Vladimir Putin and Canadian Finance Minister Paul Martin.

Brampton, Ontario-based Nortel faced a barrage of media criticism after issuing its warning, which included cutting revenue growth forecasts to 15 percent from 30 percent.

"This is the most abrupt downturn that the US has ever experienced. It's becoming very clear that all our customers are starting to adjust their budgets to take account of the realities of the very sharp and severe downturn that the US is experiencing," Roth said.

Angry investors have launched three class-action lawsuits against Nortel in the United States, charging the company with false and misleading statements about its growth prospects. *Reuters*

Energy East to buy RGS Energy for $2B

ALBANY, New York—Energy East Corp. has agreed to buy RGS Energy Group Inc. for $2.4 billion in cash, stock and assumed debt to add power and natural gas customers in upper New York state, according to people familiar with the matter.

The boards of both New York-based companies voted unanimously for the transaction, the people said. After the purchase, Energy East will have annual revenue of $5 billion, sell power to 1.8 million customers and gas to almost 1 million through two utilities, New York State Electric and Gas, and Rochester Gas and Electric.

RGS shareholders will get cash and Energy East stock valued at $39.50 for each share if Energy East shares stay in a specified trading range, the people said. The price is a 24 percent premium to the average over the past 20 days for RGS shares, which is in line with recent purchases of small US utilities, according to Bloomberg data. Energy East will assume about $1 billion in debt, the people said.

Albany, New York-based Energy East has bought four utility companies in little more than a year, expanding in New England. It acquired Connecticut Energy Co. in February of last year, and three other companies in September. Those were CMP Group Inc., owner of a Maine electric utility; CTG Resources, a Connecticut gas utility; and Berkshire Energy Resources, a Massachusetts natural gas company. *Bloomberg*

NEC slashes forecast as chip prices slide

TOKYO—NEC Corp., the world's third largest chipmaker, slashed yesterday its annual earnings forecast 33 percent, the latest chipmaker to lower expectations amid a slide in chip prices and slackening demand for personal computers.

Tokyo-based NEC said it now expected a net income of 60 billion yen ($516 million) for the year ending March 31 compared with an earlier forecast of 90 billion yen. Sales were expected to total 5.4 trillion yen, 1.8 percent lower than earlier estimates.

NEC joins Japanese chipmakers Toshiba Corp. and Fujitsu Ltd. in predicting earnings will fail to meet expectations after Dell Computer Corp. and other personal computer makers cut their own outlooks.

In anticipation of lower chip sales, NEC said last week it would cut spending at its semiconductor business by as much as 20 percent next fiscal year.

"Chip inventories are too high in the US and Asia, where electronics makers produce PCs and gadgets under American companies' brand names," said Takashi Ushio, an analyst at Marusan Securities Co., who rated the shares "hold." *Bloomberg*

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S. Korea jobless rate rises as economy cools

SEOUL—South Korea's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose to 4.1 percent in January from 3.9 percent in December, reinforcing the belief the economy has been cooling for months, the National Statistical Office said yesterday.

Analysts said they expected the unemployment rate to grow further in the coming months, making it politically more difficult for the government to press ahead with economic reform and achieve its 2001 unemployment limit of 3.7 percent.

The jobless rate before seasonal factors rose more steeply to 4.6 percent in January from 4.1 percent in December with the number of unemployed surging nearly 10 percent from the previous month to 982,000 in January, the NSO said.

The market had expected the jobless rate to increase from the previous month and the government had said the number of unemployed could hit one million early in 2001.

"It's somewhat expected, so not that worrisome yet," said Yang Kyung-shik, an economist at Daishin Securities. "It clearly shows again where the economy is positioned now, with the economic slowdown which started from the fourth quarter last year."

College students' stepped-up efforts to find jobs ahead of graduation in February helped tighten the job market, an NSO official said.

"Unemployment crept up in reflection of the slowing economy," said Huh Jin-ho, director of the NSO's social statistics division. "Seasonally, a lack of activities in the construction and farming sector squeezed job availability, along with more job hunters from colleges."

Reuters

Indonesian economic growth rises to 5.2% in 4th quarter

JAKARTA—Indonesia's economy unexpectedly accelerated in the fourth quarter despite declining prices for the country's key oil exports and political scandals that took a toll on the confidence of investors and consumers.

Gross domestic product in the fourth quarter grew 5.2 percent from a year earlier, compared with a growth of 5.1 percent in the third quarter, the Central Bureau of Statistics said. The fourth quarter figure exceeded the 4.4-percent growth forecast by economists polled by Bloomberg News.

Economists do not expect growth to last.

"If the export sector is slowing down and investment is slowing down as well, this will drag" on economic growth, Song Seng Wun, a regional economist at GK Goh Research Pte. in Singapore, said before the figures were announced. "Given the political environment, investment will continue to decline."

Slower growth could compound the troubles of President Abdurrahman Wahid, who faces possible impeachment over allegations he took part in two multimillion-dollar scandals. Wahid has also been criticized for an erratic leadership style and economic mismanagement.

For the year as a whole, the economy grew 4.8 percent, far more than the 0.3-percent rate of the previous year and beating expectations of a 4.6-percent growth. The economy in the fourth quarter shrank by 0.7 percent from the third quarter, the statistics department said.

Growth was not likely to pick up much, Bank Indonesia said yesterday. The central bank predicted the economy would expand by between 4 percent and 5 percent in the first quarter of 2001 from a year earlier.

Higher oil prices, which propelled Indonesian growth early last year, declined in the fourth quarter. The decline coincided with an economic slowdown in the United States, a key market for exports of Indonesian textiles, electronic products and other goods.

Exports fell for the third month in December to $5.14 billion, the lowest level since May, led by a decline in the value of shipments of oil and natural gas. Crude oil futures traded on the New York Mercantile Exchange fell 17 percent in the fourth quarter.

Meanwhile, political scandals and separatist violence in far-flung provinces of the world's fourth most-populous nation have sapped confidence in the already battered rupiah, which fell 9.3 percent against the dollar in the fourth quarter. That made the rupiah the world's second-worst performing currency after the Korean won. The Jakarta composite index declined 3.7 percent in the fourth quarter.

Slow growth would delay Indonesia's recovery from the 1998 recession, when the economy shrank by 13 percent.

President Wahid found himself entangled in two scandals involving $6.2 million even as his unpredictable personality and impulsive remarks have offended many legislators and turned a number of key supporters into political foes.

Bloomberg

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Oil primary Asean energy source to 2010

SINGAPORE—Oil will remain the main source of energy for Southeast Asia over the next decade, which is shaping up as a period of surging demand in the region, a senior industry official said yesterday.

Guillermo Balce, executive director of the Asean Center for Energy, told Reuters in an interview that the region would continue to rely heavily on oil despite determined efforts by the Association of Southeast Nations to cut consumption.

Among other energy sources, he predicted a surge in demand over the decade for coal and renewable energy, with a more moderate rise in demand for natural gas.

"Oil will continue to be the dominant fuel in Asean for the next 10 years," he said.

"However, some industries will succeed in reducing their dependency on oil by controlling their energy mix."

ACE is an inter-governmental organization supported by Asean's 10 member countries—Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Balce said energy demand from Asean, minus newer members Cambodia and Laos, would grow 58.81 percent for the next 10 years to 581.37 million tons of oil equivalent (MTOE).

Indonesia will continue to be the largest energy consumer, with demand forecast to grow 99.13 percent to 180.07 MTOE. But Balce said Myanmar would post the highest percentage growth at 414.66 percent.

Myanmar's energy demand during the next 10 years will surge to a projected 21.41 MTOE from the current 4.16 MTOE.

Balce said demand projections for Cambodia and Laos were unavailable because of insufficient data.

For the next decade, oil would continue to maintain its stranglehold on the region, with demand for the fossil fuel growing 62.45 percent to 334.02 MTOE by 2010, he added.

Reuters

Hitachi to miss LCD target

TOKYO—Hitachi Ltd., the world's third biggest maker of large liquid-crystal displays, said yesterday its LCD sales would fall short of expectations this year because prices dropped.

Though the company's manufacturing plant was operating at full capacity, "we will unfortunately revise down our sales estimate," said Zenzo Tajima, product manager at Hitachi's display unit. Prices of 14.1-inch panels for notebook PCs in January were about 40 percent lower than a year earlier, he said.

Hitachi is not the only LCD maker to suffer from falling prices. South Korean and Taiwanese makers have stepped up production and lowered their prices last year. That was followed by slower growth in demand for PCs and a slowdown in the US economy recently.

"The whole industry is being affected," said Tajima in an interview. "While we had expected the pace in price declines to turn moderate from the fourth quarter (of last year), prices are declining rather rapidly in this first quarter."

LCD prices are unlikely to stop falling even after Japan's new business year starts in April, according to DisplaySearch. All thin-film transistor LCDs measuring 12.1 inches and larger diagonally will be priced at record low levels from this month, the market research company said in a Jan. 24 report.

"DisplaySearch expects prices to continue to decline through 2001 and fall below manufactured costs for most commodity large-area panels," it said. The surplus in LCD supplies will continue because of increased production in the first half of this year, the researcher added.

Bloomberg

Unisys initiates growth actions

NEW YORK—Unisys Corp. has announced aggressive new actions to drive its growth agenda.

The actions reflect the company's focus on its global e-business solutions portfolio, expanding opportunities in outsourcing, establishment of strategic alliances and channel relationships throughout its business, and successful launch of its Unisys e-@ction ES7000 Enterprise Server program.

Unisys chair and chief executive Lawrence Weinbach, speaking to financial analysts gathered in New York as well as a wide audience on the Internet, said, "Unisys is well-positioned to generate higher margin, value-added, e-business growth."

Weinbach announced several new initiatives. He said Dell and Unisys had signed a letter of intent to form a worldwide strategic partnership, opening the door for Dell to market Unisys' state-of-the-art cellular multiprocessing enterprise server technology.

Unisys would also provide a wide range of networking, warranty and systems integration services to Dell customers worldwide.

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MESSAGE OF THANKS

We, the family of the late

FILEMON "POPOY" LAGMAN

Founder, Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino,
Sanlakas and Partido ng Manggagawa

who ardently and fearlessly trod the risky road to social justice and enduring freedom, whose revolutionary fervor was ruthlessly snuffed out by an assassin's bullet on 6 February 2001

sincerely express our deepest gratitude and appreciation to the poor masses Popoy dearly loved and selflessly served who shared our pain and sorrow and to all those who visited and kept vigil, offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers and donations to the Workers Welfare Fund of the Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino, marched with us and attended the funeral rites and condoled with us in our moment of bereavement.

Your concern and kindness at a time of immeasurable sorrow for our family eased the pain of our loss and the enormity of our grief.

OUR DEARLY BELOVED

RAFAEL G. SOLIS

of Medicion, Imus, Cavite

has peacefully joined his Creator on February 16, 2001 at the age of 63.

His bereaved wife **Nellie**; children **Arman** and **Anadel**, **Tito** and **Chic**, **Joey** and **Violy**, **Liza**, **Tess** and **Ed**, **Jofer**, **Mert** and **Jasmin**, **Ranel** and **Andrew**; brother **Ernesto**; sisters **Dra. Ester**, **Nenie** and **Dra. Nellie Solis Orlino**; in-laws; **Enriqueta** and **Dr. Marcos Orlino**; grandchildren, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Angelus Chapel, Toclong I, Imus, Cavite.

Interment will be on Sunday, February 25, 2001 at Imus Cemetery after the 2:00 p.m. Holy Mass at Angelus Chapel.

It has been a year since "Mamang",

VICENTA SALAZAR GENEROSO

Sept. 11, 1918 - Feb. 22, 2000

peacefully left us, and we remember her with fond memories as we commemorate her first death anniversary on February 22, 2001.

Please join us in praying for her eternal rest during Holy Mass to be celebrated at:

SLU Chapel, Baguio City	7:30 AM
Pink Sisters Adoration Chapel, Baguio City	6:30 AM
Baguio Cathedral, Baguio City	5:15 PM
Sacred Heart Chapel, Baguio City	12:15 PM
Resurrection Parish Church, BF Homes Parañaque City	6:30 PM
St. Jerome Church, Alabang, Mutinlupa City	12:15 PM
L' Annunciata Church, Victoria Homes, Muntinlupa City	6:30 AM

Her husband **Eduardo**; children **Joe** and **Mila**, **Didit** and **Romy Young**; grandchildren **Teedung** and **Carol**, **Denise** and **Warren Marcos**, **Tutit** and **Christia**, **Tricia G. Young**; great grandchildren **Nate** and **Angelo**; extend their sincerest thanks to all those who continue to remember her and include her in their prayers.

FRANCISCO L. TUMALIUAN

Councilor for 15 years (1954-1969)
Chief of Police and Acting Mayor of Peñablanca, Cagayan

Peacefully joined our Creator on February 18, 2001 at the age of 76.

His remains lie in state at St. Peter Memorial Chapels at Quezon Ave., Quezon City.

Interment will be on February 25, 2001, 10:00 a.m. at the Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches, Quezon City.

"From darkness let the light shine!"

Genesis 1:3

BENJAMIN S. CASTILLO

of Mabini, Batangas
Retired Director, DPWH

Has serenely joined the Lord in His Kingdom on January 26, 2001.

I, **BENJIE CRIS**, his only child, would like to express my deepest gratitude and appreciation to all those, who in their own way, helped eased my pain and sorrow, and condoled with me in my moment of grief.

In Loving Memory
On the
First Death Anniversary
of

Ma. Lourdes Tirona Gabriel

05 February 1944 - 21 February 2000

Masses and prayers will be offered at the following:

The Abbey of Our Lady of Montserrat	7:00 AM
Holy Redeemer Parish (Brixton Hills, Quezon City)	6:30 PM
Our Lady of Fatima Church (Cordillera St., Quezon City)	6:30 PM

The family extend their sincerest thanks to all who continue to pray for our beloved **MARILOU** and keep her in their memories:

Gabby, **Ricky**, **Maricar** and **Pia**
brothers and sisters-in-law **Jess** and **Gertie**, **Willie** and **Tetta**, **Dory** and **Liza**, and **Margie** and **Girlie**, nephews and nieces.

On his
FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY
we lovingly remember

Atty. ELENO BALANON VELASCO

Provident Villages, Marikina City and San Fernando, La Union

who died in the Grace of our Lord on February 22, 2000 at the age of 67.

His beloved wife Teresita; children Alma, Bess, Dulce, Raymond Eleno, Jr. (†), AR and Richard; sons-in-law Alex, Sixto and Jaime; grandchildren Bianca, Blu, Alexis and Maio, Luigi, Camille; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Holy Masses will be offered at the following churches tomorrow, February 22, 2001:

Provident Villages Chapel Marikina City	7:00 PM
Immaculate Conception Parish Lantana Street, Cubao, Quezon City	6:00 AM 6:00 PM
Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish UP Village, Quezon City	6:00 AM 6:00 PM
Parokya ng Immaculada Concepcion Antipolo City	7:00 AM
Monasterio de Sta. Clara Katipunan Avenue, Quezon City	6:30 AM
St. Joseph Shrine Aurora Boulevard, Project 3, Quezon City	5:30 AM 6:00 PM
Christ the King E. Rodriguez Sr. Boulevard, Quezon City	6:30 AM 6:00 PM
Sta. Maria della Strada Katipunan Avenue corner Pansol Street, Quezon City	6:00 AM 6:00 PM
National Shrine of our Lady of Lourdes Retiro Street, Quezon City	5:30, 6:30, 7:30 AM 6:00 PM
St. Catherine Chaplain, CY Villanueva, Bautista, Pangasinan	6:00 AM

On February 19, 2001

(Ret.) Col. PEDRO B. TIAMBENG

peacefully joined our Lord at the age of 92.

We, his family: wife **Antonia**; children **Guillermo**, **Eduardo**, **Felicitas**, **Felipa**; **Manuel** & **Baltazar**, **Agnes**; **Augustus** & **Marian**; sons & daughters-in-law, grandchildren & great grandchildren, relatives & friends ask you to join us as we thank and praise God for the fruitful life he lived and the way he touched our lives.

His remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Chapel L, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on Thursday, February 22, 2001 at 12:00 noon at the Libingan Ng Mga Bayani, Fort Bonifacio, Makati City after the 9:00 a.m. Memorial Service.

Come to Me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest

Matthew 11:28

I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies, and whoever believes in Me will never die.

John 11:25-26

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Happy are those who have died in the Lord;
let them rest from their labors for their good deeds go with them.
Revelations 14:13

MARIA MIRANDA PARUNGAO

(widow of BUENAVENTURA PARUNGAO)

was lovingly called by our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ to dwell in the House of the Father forever last February 17, 2001; She was 80 years old.

She will be most missed by her loving children, grandchildren and great grandchildren; **Jean** and **Billy** (†) **Guevarra** with **Tinggay**, **Che**, **Kaye** and **Nicky**; **Bessie** and **Charles Albano** with **Lawrence** and children **Arianna**, **Alitha** and **Seth** and **Caroline** and child **Dawn**; **Benny** and **Estela** (†) with **Vicky** and **Ding** child **Dot-Dot**; **Danny** and **Winnie** with **Gippy** and **Maria Elsa**; **Josie** with **Claire**, **Pamela** and **Gillian Reclosado**; **Marie** (†) and **Henry Narciso** with **Paolo**, **Carlo**, **Macky** and **Mara**; **Lourdes** and **Chris Datu** with **Diane**, and by all of us who were given the grace to know and love her.

We request the pious readers to pray for her eternal rest.

Her body lies in state at the Funeraria Paz, Naguilian Road, Baguio City. Funeral Mass will be on Saturday, February 24, 2001, at 8:00 a.m. at St. Vincent Church. Interment will immediately follow at the Baguio City Cemetery.

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People, Events & Products

REZ GOPEZ-SINDAC, Editor

Sun Life Financial Philippines breaks records with last year's growth

SUN LIFE Financial Philippines Operations rode high on the crest of its achievements for the year 2000. To cap a very fruitful year, Sun Life Financial Philippines Operations achieved record-high earnings in 2000, exceeding P1 billion in first year premiums in 2000, representing a hefty 54 percent growth over 1999. With renewal premiums at P4 billion, total premium income reached P5.1 billion, a gain by 20 percent. Strong growth was demonstrated in both the individual and group insurance businesses. Income from investments contributed P3.2 billion, rising by 34 percent despite a weak equities market. Total revenues in 2000, inclusive of miscellaneous income, amounted to P9.2 billion. This represents a high 24.1 percent growth over 1999 total revenues of P7.5 billion. (Note: year 2000 figures are based on unaudited financial statements)

Upon demutualization, Sun Life of Canada (Philippines) Inc. became a wholly-owned subsidiary of Sun Life Financial Services of Canada based in Toronto. In March 23, 2000, its holding company, Sun Life Financial, listed in the stock exchanges of Toronto, New York, London and Manila. In the Philippine Stock Exchange, initial shareholders totaled 193,000, making Sun Life Financial one of the most widely-held stock in the local bourse.

In the second quarter, the company launched its Sun Life Asset Management Company (SLAMC) with its offering of a family of mutual fund products called the Sun Life Prosperity Funds. A breakthrough in the Philippines, this family of funds allows investors to transfer their investments from one fund to another without charge, as their investment objectives change over time.

Sun Life Financial Philippines Operations' strong financial performance in 2000 was brought about by the tremendous goodwill generated by the company's successful demutualization, its dedicated agency force, and a continuing commitment to service and excellence. To see fruition very soon is the introduction of Sun Life pre-need plans to the Philippine market, also the launching of two pre-need products—education and pension plans—to answer the need for protection against the rising cost of education and to fulfill every individual's dream to live a good life even after retirement.

Sun Life Financial Philippines Operations indeed rides high on its vision to become a leading provider of diversified financial services in the country.

GLOBE TELECOM
ALCATEL

ALCATEL SUPPORTS GLOBE'S GTAAA

The 6th Globe Telecom Academic Achievement Awards has received the support of Alcatel, leading French telecom supplier. Alcatel has signed on as major sponsor to the Year 2001 GTAAA. Now on its sixth year, the GTAAA has included in its area of implementation the Visayas region. The GTAAA has established itself as the core social responsibility program of Globe Telecom in its effort to contribute to nation-building, and to promote public interest through telecommunications and Information Technology. Signing the agreement are (from left) Globe Telecom AVP for public relations Jones Campos, Globe Telecom SVP for corporate and regulatory affairs Rodolfo Salalima, Alcatel Philippines VP for key accounts Cris Carreon and Alcatel Philippines corporate communications manager Rodolfo Estrera.

PCSO HAS NEW CHAIR

Rosario N. Lopez, outgoing Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office chair (center), formally turns over leadership of the PCSO to presidential appointee Ma. Livia "Honey Girl" S. de Leon, former TLRC director general. Looking on are PCSO general manager Ricardo G. Golpeo (left), former chair Manuel Morato (seated) and members of the Board of Directors.

Jaguar worldwide sales reach record high in 2000

JAGUAR set a new all-time record in 2000 with worldwide sales of 90,031 cars. This represents a 20 percent increase on 1999, and reflects the dramatic pace of Jaguar's development as a business, fuelled by the success of S-type, particularly in the United States.

Announcing this record-breaking achievement at the Detroit International Auto Show, Jonathan Browning, Jaguar's managing director said, "2000 was another milestone year in the product-led transformation of Jaguar. Today, we produce a range of high quality, attractive products generating tremendous sales momentum, making Jaguar one of the fastest growing of all car manufacturers.

"This year, we will break through the 100,000 sales threshold as we launch the new Jaguar X-Type compact sports saloon later in the year. In addition, we can now look forward to Jaguar becoming a five-car line company with the announcement last week that we intend to put the F-Type into production in 2004.

"In the space of five years, Jaguar will have transformed from a two-car line niche player to a five-car line company and a major force in the global premium car market, and a significant competitor to Mercedes and BMW in every market of the world."

AWARD FOR VALUES PROMOTION

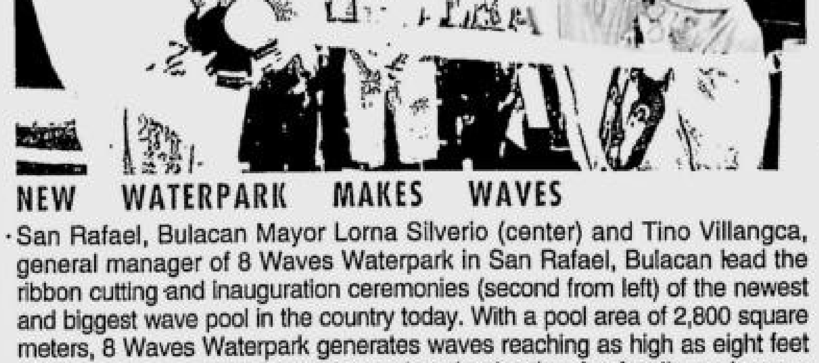
Hen Lin shared honors with radio station 96.3 WRock when it sponsored the award-winning feature series "Dati at Ngayon" which aimed at imparting traditional values to the youth. The award was given during the "Araw Values Awards 2000" of the advertising industry. Hen Lin officials (from left) Lynne H. Manas, Francis H. Manas, Vince de Silva and Clarette Lopez, proudly display their award.

WINNERS ALL

Warren Davadilla (seated, fourth from left), the champion of the 1st Dinagyang Alaxan Professional Cycling Tour of Iloilo and Capiz take a moment of rest with Alaxan brand manager Joselito Garcia (seated, second from left), Tour chair Councilor Rolando Lacsi and Tour winners.

Hardware Depot to open at the Liberty Center

THE HARDWARE Depot, the newest name in the now popular mall-based hardware outlets, will soon open at the Liberty Center, a fast-growing shopping venue along Shaw Boulevard in Madaluyong City. This was announced by Amadeo H. Urbano, Jr., property manager of Liberty Center. Owned and operated by Richard Q. Chua, Hardware Depot will carry the entire spectrum of hardware and other home as well as car care items, presented in supermarket style format for the convenience of shoppers. Its outlet at the Liberty Center will be the first in Metro Manila, following its unprecedented success in the new NE Pacific Mall in Cabanatuan City.



NEW WATERPARK MAKES WAVES

San Rafael, Bulacan Mayor Lorna Silverio (center) and Tino Villangca, general manager of 8 Waves Waterpark in San Rafael, Bulacan lead the ribbon cutting and inauguration ceremonies (second from left) of the newest and biggest wave pool in the country today. With a pool area of 2,800 square meters, 8 Waves Waterpark generates waves reaching as high as eight feet and provides a refreshing alternative destination for family and group getaways. The water park also features a 9-hole mini golf course, kiddie pool with Noah's Ark slide, spacious bamboo huts and long span sheds, a diner and souvenir shop, kiddie car rides, volleyball court and playground. 8 Waves is open to the public Tuesdays to Sundays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

e-mail: peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph.

PEOPLE at WORK

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ REGINA GALANG REYES, Subsection Editor

Gen Y: a new breed of values and desires

By Caela Farren

THE TEEN generation is growing at twice the rate of the rest of America. In fact, the 12-19 age bracket—representing the "Millennial Generation" or Generation Y—is predicted to grow from 31 million today to a historic high of 35 million by 2010, says Teenage Research Unlimited. This will surpass the baby boom at its peak. Given these record numbers, their effect on the workforce will be profound.

Having finally understood and accepted Generation X is not consolation for employers—Generation Y contrasts sharply with Generation X. While their older cousins in Generation X were socially concerned though pessimistic about their ability to change the world, Generation Y would rather improve themselves, according to a survey published by the Adam Smith Institute, a British think-tank. Among the findings of the survey:

- Nearly 50 percent say that their career goal is to be a millionaire by age 35.
- 48 percent want their own business.
- More want to work in business or finance than any other sector.

This is clearly a do-it-yourself generation—likely to be the most entrepreneurial generation we have seen in decades. Yet despite their business sense, Generation Y retains traditional moral attitudes. Most want to marry, have children and own a home. The attributes they most admire in others are honesty and caring, rather than ambition or fashionability, but the one they pride most in themselves is determination.

There is clearly a shift in attitudes. Today's youth wants to see the value in the work they are doing. Once employers talk values and give them meaningful roles in the company, they will engage Generation Y workers. I will feel successful if I could help or change even one life, says Andrew Dalton, age 18.

Another difference with Generation Y: This younger generation must also look out for themselves because the Social Security system will not provide all their retirement needs. As such, they are learning now how to save, invest, live within their means, and plan for retirement. Some are already becoming skilled investors while planning to work well into their 70s.

Employers should note, however, that while their plans are to work for many years, Generation Y also values the work/life balance that is permeating today's workforce. Says 17-year old Ana Vieira, "My goal is to be successful in my career of choice and to have a well-balanced life."

(Reprinted with permission from www.careermag.com)

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

An inside look into the workplace of the future

By Caela Farren

WHY is it important to gauge the future? In my years of consulting experience in a wide variety of industries and companies, I have found that many, perhaps most, workers seem caught unaware when major changes affect their organizations and their jobs. They act like the blindfolded walker—tense, anxious, and uncertain of what to do next. Yet, most are experienced workers with the skills and knowledge to weather the changes. With a clear view of coming change, employees can adapt with greater confidence rather than being forced into blind reactions.

With this in mind, here are my insights into the workplace of the future. Keep in mind that predictions are useful tools to help you anticipate changes that might occur in your industry, profession, or job. Yes, there are hazards during change, but also countless opportunities.

Loyalty

- Loyalty will return to work. Employees will require more information about new products, markets, missions, and strategies. Employers who do not share this information will not attract and keep key players.
- Downsizing, upsizing, rightsizing, and growth stabilization will all be welcome forms of "sizing" companies. Employees will see changes coming, and know how and where they fit—or be told ahead of time if they don't. Trend tracking will become a core career competency.
- Work settings will become more and more varied. Technical savvy is a must! Because of technology and the new shape of organizations, people will work at home, in the car, and on the Web. Virtual teams, short and long-term contracts, full-time, part-time, and free agents will become common. Anyplace can be a workplace—we already see it at airports, coffee shops, airplanes, cars, and in homes. In fact, the U.S. Department of Transportation predicts telecommuters will be 15 percent of the workforce by 2002.

Family, women

- Family-centered, women-owned businesses will become more and more powerful. The number of women-owned businesses in the U.S. has more than doubled during the past 12 years, according to "1999 Facts on Women-Owned Businesses: Trends in the U.S. and the 50 States" by the National Foundation for Women Business Owners. Employment in women-owned firms has increased four-fold since 1987, and sales have grown five-fold, demonstrating their escalating impact on the economy. Today, there are 9.1 million women-owned businesses in the U.S., representing 38 percent of all businesses employing 27.5 million people and generating over $3.6 trillion in sales annually. NFWBO's analysis shows that from 1987 to 1999, the number of women-owned firms in the U.S. increased 103 percent. Employment grew at a far more rapid rate of 320 percent, and sales skyrocketed 436 percent. And, NFWBO also found that women business owners are more likely than all businesses to offer flex-time, tuition reimbursement, and job sharing.
- People won't work for companies and organizations where they don't get a share of the profits, and where work/life balance is not given. Many employers are already finding that workers need more than just a paycheck to motivate them. They are looking for meaning, value and balance in their work and personal lives. Employees will seek companies that offer and support a vast array of work/life benefits such as flexible schedules, education, profit sharing, childcare, and eldercare. Employees will be attracted to companies that offer ownership programs, courses and coaching on work/life issues—such as finance, health, home purchase, and community service.

Diverse workforce

- Multi-generational and diverse workforces will be the norm. Mentor/apprentice relationships will go both ways—young adults will coach technology and the "mature workers" will coach workforce issues.
- Boundaries between work and school will blur. Learning will center more on professions and trades. There will be more mentor/apprentice relationships, with coaching on the Internet from people you've never met.
- "Kids" will start working at an earlier age, fostered by school to work partnerships. The ability to "quit school" will become a dead concept/paradigm. Young adults will be encouraged to choose a career track earlier, and then design work and school to support that choice.

Experts industry-wide hypothesize about the workplace of the future. With the new century quickly approaching, organizational leaders as well as employees are trying to sort out their predictions with the goal of keeping up with—if not staying one step ahead—of the competition.

(Reprinted with permission from www.careermag.com.)

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Workstyles without boundaries

PHOTO BY ERIK ARAZAS

RAMOS giving the touch-screen kiosk a try.

By Roche Leonor

WHAT would work be without your personal desks, cabinets and workstations? Can you imagine your office without the usual photos of your loved ones or your personal effects? Would it be more convenient going to an office full of clean desks, rolling cabinets and removable tags? How about going to an office where you can have your laundry done?

If such a set-up would mean that an employee would not be confined to the four walls of a traditional office, but would work whenever and wherever the work requires, would it be worth the adjustment? And will you be willing to make the adjustment?

A slice of this futuristic work style is offered by Accenture (formerly Andersen Consulting). Its Manila office is similar to their other offices worldwide.

While the office looks typical, it really is not. Switchboard telephones line up at the receptionist's table. A microphone snakes out from the centralized paging machine system while couches sit snugly around the visitors' lounge. But what is worthy to note are the touch-screen kiosks that are very much visible in the area.

All-purpose kiosk

According to Michael Ramos, Accenture's Facilities and Services Director, anyone accessing the kiosk will see their consultant's schedule, what room he is in and where to contact him. The bulk of Accenture's employees are their consultants who provide the core service of this consulting firm. "If the consultant's not in the office, you will at least know which executive assistant to talk to," says Ramos. "You just need to 'click' the search icon and type the name of the person you're looking for."

Aside from locating Accenture personnel, the kiosks can also be used by consultants to look for and reserve meeting and function rooms and request for equipment needed for presentations.

A typical day for Accenture's consultants consists of deskwork, conference calls and many meetings.

SUAREZ-CASANOVA

Deskwork usually covers formulating strategies and working on current projects. Meetings, on the other hand, can be as short as 15 minutes and can last up to two hours. Since much work is the order of the day, most consultants no longer have the time to take care of their other needs.

This is where the convenience of the new workplace model come in. Consultants, especially those coming from other Accenture offices, can use the company's concierge services, which allow employees to have their dry cleaning done, reserve seats at a restaurant, buy tickets for the theater, or send a messenger to pay their bills. This can all be done through Accenture's office reservation system, which is a workplace reservation system that will make sure the right space is available for an employee's business needs.

"Our concierge services enable us to focus more on work by taking care of our laundry and bills," says Victoria Suarez-Casanova, manager of the Government Market Unit. "We are no longer occupied with minor concerns such as access to banks and courier services for personal items since there are services that can do these."

Touchdown services

Accenture's new workplace model also features touchdown spaces for employees who are just passing by any Accenture office to check their mail or view their portfolio. Since most of the consultants are always on the go, these touchdown spaces provide them the convenience of looking into their mail, without taking up much of their time. Ramos said these are spaces for collaborative moments when a consultant wants to speak privately with his staff but doesn't necessarily want to occupy a conference room.

Given the convenience the new workplace provides, how do Accenture consultants feel? Was there any difficulty adjusting, considering that the new workplace model is very much different with the typical office set-up?

According to Arnold Acero, senior manager (Strategy) of Accenture, the adoption of the new workplace model is in line with the company's understanding of the nature of its work. Accenture has 46 different offices worldwide and has 70,000 employees, with consultants travelling 70 to 80 percent of the time to clients and other Accenture offices abroad. By centrally managing office space and allocation of resources, Acero said, Accenture was able to ensure that utilization was maximized and that led to savings in rent and appropriations for equipment.

Worldwide standard

The same standard of workplace is also being employed in all the offices of Accenture around the world. As this is the case, foreign consultants, when visiting other Accenture offices, don't find it hard to adjust to new surroundings. "A Brazil-based consultant going to Manila would not be lost because it's the same standard everywhere," says Ramos. "He would immediately know where the printers, copying machines, fax are located as well as the best places to dine with clients and talk business."

Ramos said they prepared tons of materials and demonstrations during lunchtime to familiarize employees on the new workplace model. Some had difficulty adjusting at first but since Accenture has always been known as a company that always remakes itself for the better, it was not long before everyone got the hang of it. "

The workplace is pretty supportive," says Acero. "Things are a lot easier with this set-up. I can order flowers for my wife or reserve a workspace without sacrificing my time in consulting work." Ditto for Suarez-Casanova. "The new workplace helps us focus on our real work instead of worrying over administrative matters, which sometimes take up most of our day."

Cost savings

This system has also generated big cost savings for the company. Accenture's method maximizes the use of precious office resources. They have been doing this since November 1998. Its offices in Chicago, Boston and Paris pioneered in this system, serving as pilots. When they tested the arrangement here in Manila, they found out room utilization was only about 60 percent. And ever since the adoption of the new workplace model, costs have been brought down to around 40 percent.

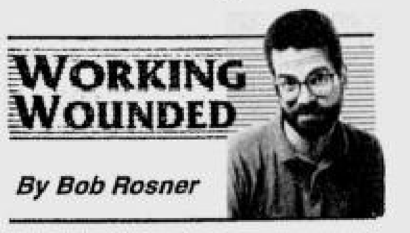
Since the new workplace seems to be effective in Accenture, does it mean that this is how work will flow in the coming years? "I think it will depend on the industry," says Acero. "For those that embrace automation, mobile access, flexible work hours, that's definite. But for those industries still heavy on manual process in either bookkeeping, accounting, etc., I have to qualify, however, that even if certain industries will find difficulty in implementing this, they'll quickly realize the benefits when they try it.

Do they hope for further improvements on the new workplace? Ramos, Casanova and Acero suggest utilizing other channels for the services such as text messaging. After all, mobile phones and text messaging have recently become a necessity especially for employees. Employing these mediums will spell more convenience for Accenture's consultants.

But whether the new workplace model of Accenture needs more improvements or not, the fact still remains that the company was able to address problems such as underutilization of facilities and maximization of employees' time. Definitely, for Accenture and its employees, it was worth the adjustment.

ACERO

What are the keys to success as an entrepreneur?



By Bob Rosner

DEAR WW: I run a small printing business which grew quickly at first, but which has been stagnant or declining slightly for the last couple of years. What's the secret for growing your business?
Tired of being a munchkin

Dear Tired,

Your struggle reminds me of the day the Olympic torch went out. A cyclist was carrying it toward Atlanta (over the Tacoma Narrows Bridge) when he fell and poof! Snuffed. But did they worry? Not a bit. 'Cause traveling just a few feet behind was a truck carrying the "mother flame." The torch was relit and quickly the agony of defeat gave way to the thrill of victory. Well, if the fabled Olympic torch can go out, is it any wonder that the light of your business can flicker? That's why you've got to be the "mother flame," always ready to relight it and make it grow.

For tips on how to do that (without getting burned), I turned to one of the Internet's most successful entrepreneurs, Mike Slade, CEO of Starwave (the brains behind ESPN's web site, which is arguably the most visited Internet site). Mike says that the trick to being an entrepreneur is to be in charge, but to lead more in the style of Ghandi than Hitler. He suggested asking yourself the following questions:

1. Do you know what your customers really think of you? With all the day-to-day details of running your business it's easy to lose touch with your customers. But that, says, Mike, is the biggest sin. Talk to customers regularly and watch them use your product and service. Don't just guess how they feel; use empirical data and your observations to design a "customer experience" that will keep them coming back.

2. Do you hire people who are smarter than you are? Scary? You bet. But according to Mike, the only way your company will thrive, rather than survive, is to have topnotch brains doing the work.

3. Do you give your employees room to operate? Or do you hold too tightly to the reins? Mike says the best way to keep employees loyal, happy and productive is to give them control over what they do. Will they make mistakes? Of course. But the benefits they produce will outweigh their occasional boners.

4. Do you lead like Ghandi or like Hitler? One of the hardest things about running your own business is learning how to lead—and learning that leadership doesn't mean being indomitable, authoritarian or always right. Hitler led through fear, Ghandi through inspiration. The Mahatma's style is far more effective in a corporation.

Of course, if you're going to do all these things, you need to keep your own "mother flame" burning bright. I suggest you keep a picture of your least favorite former boss (or a ridiculous memo from a former job) framed over your desk. One look should be enough to relight your spark and keep your business from getting torched.

Here are the results of the recent workingwounded.com poll: What is the most important thing for an entrepreneur to have?

—A Cool Idea, 27 percent
—Lots of Cool Cash, 32 percent
—A Cool Head, 41 percent

Our winning entrepreneurial success strategy comes from Al in Seattle. "The toughness of mind and spirit to get through the low and slow periods. Be ready to fill in these "blank spots" with activity that will help your business (specific marketing projects, a training program, etc.)."

(Email feedback to bob@workingwounded.com)

Change your world

RECIPES for LEARNING

By
Moje Ramos-Aquino

WHAT have become of you since the last time you read this column? Have you created changes in your life or are you still mired in your "old" life?

You know, going through the process of life planning itself is part of our continuous learning process and is, at any given point, life changing. Just looking into your heart, mind and soul already makes you think, act and speak differently from your routine or habit.

You are by now about to write your action plans to boost your objectives. Let me just give you a review so far of what we are doing by way of the diagram.

You will note that we divided the whole process of your Life Planning into three easily doable chunks of workshops. First is the Visioning & Valuing Workshop where you identified your Personal Vision, Mission & Values. Now we are in the tail end of our Workshop on Setting Goals, Objectives & Action Plans. The third and biggest chunk will be further subdivided into different personal, technical and life competencies workshops to better equip you with skills to examine and live life until you finally achieve your dreams.

Do you notice that to plan your life, you start with your vision and mission while to live your life you do the reverse? This is not a trick; this is how it should be. We first see the end, then we work towards that end.

To better prepare you for the remainder of our Workshop, we shall give you some simple life changing acts, behaviors and speech patterns that you can already adopt to start you to your journey to a fulfilling and happy life. Let us call this list, Change Your World Techniques.

- Trust yourself. Accept yourself, warts and all, and concentrate on your positives. Move at your own pace and give yourself a pat in your back whenever you achieve something.
- Get a new hairdo or haircut, and I mean a new modern style. Your 19*kopong-kopong* hairdo is part of your comfort zone and is what is pegging you to the past and slowing your forward motion. *Saka hindi na uso ang tiss at* sideburns *ngayon.*
- Change that old photograph of yours in your wallet or in the big picture frame in your living room or bedroom to a most recent one. If the last picture you have was when you graduated from high school or college, go to the nearest photo studio and have a nice picture of you taken. See yourself as yourself now and not the Beatles or Audrey Hepburn lookalike of the past. By now you must have achieved a certain measure of success in your schoolwork, family, career, community and, therefore, you need not be a second-rate copycat of anybody.
- Hug and laugh with a child. This is the greatest and most effective anti-oxidant and self-confidence booster. *Libre pa.*
- If you don't cook or don't know how to cook, try and cook something. Cooking is a very creative endeavor. There are recipes available in the newspaper, TV, radio, everywhere or ask your mom for a favorite recipe. *Kahit na nilagang talbos ng kamote lang, basta ikaw mismo ang nagluto.*
- Plant a tree. If you can plant a tree and nurture it, it will give you a big measure of immortality because your tree will surely outlive you.
- If you are not yet into it, engage in a sport. Or change your current sport. Badminton, bowling, basketball, table tennis, lawn tennis, swimming, soccer, any sport. This is best done with your family and friends, and great for developing your skills in communication, team building and leadership.
- Give or throw away your old clothes and other things that you will not use in the next two months. Or anything that does not fit you anymore. Or anything that is needed more or could be used better by another. If ever you need them again, then buy a new one—the latest model. Anything that makes you wax sentimental and stick to your past will prove an obstacle to your moving on with your life. Retain the lessons or the beautiful memories, though.
- Rearrange or redo your whole house. Not just your living room or bedroom but your whole house. If you can afford it, give your house a real makeover with a new paint and new decors. Use bright colors. Use *malaga* tiles for your flooring, walls, ceiling, porch, terrace, cabinet and table tops—they are beautiful! They are designed and manufactured by my friend, Edwin Espiritu.
- Apologize for something that you have done wrong or for some hurt that you have inflicted on others. No ifs, no buts.
- Go to a doctor and have an executive check-up. No ifs, no buts.
- Take up aerobics or an exercise routine. No ifs, no buts.
- Eat healthy. Try a diet of fruits and vegetables. No ifs, no buts.
- Ask a lot of questions. Adults are pressured to have all the answers. Don't succumb to that pressure, rather, ask a lot of questions and learn more. Corollary to this, learn the power of using "and" rather than "or."
- Give compliments. Make it sincere by specifying what you are complimenting the other person for. Say, "Your new hairdo becomes you," rather than, "You look beautiful."

Open up to new experiences, new environments, and new ways of thinking, acting and speaking. Make yourself a new beautiful world.

When you are able to do most, if not all, on this list, then you are ready to work on your dreams. Next two weeks, we shall continue this Workshop on Setting Goals, Objectives and Action Plans. Even now, start changing your world.

(E-mail feedback to moje.ramos@aquino.zzn.com)

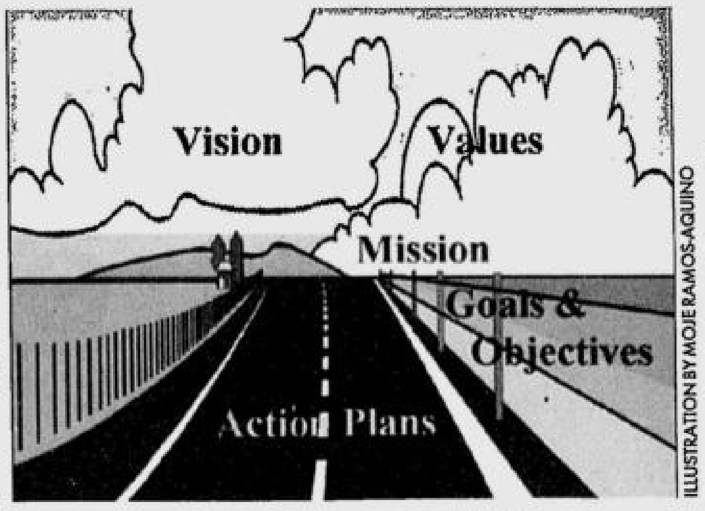


ILLUSTRATION BY MOJE RAMOS-AQUINO

Trust and accept yourself—warts and all—and concentrate on your positives.

FEEDBACK

For Moje Ramos Aquino:

I've been reading and collecting your recipes for learning, for my own use and to share with my co-workers at our Pediatric Dentistry Center on Banawe St., Quezon City. Keep writing which you do so engagingly. I would clip articles for the dentists at the Center to read. Now, they try to beat me saying that such and such write-ups are good. We are able to relate to most of your ideas.

Soledad V. Navarro
Pediatric Dentistry Center
Cardiz cor. Banawe Sts.
Quezon City

For Moje Ramos Aquino:

I was doing 5S on New Year's Eve when I found your article "Make your New Year's resolutions now." Call it serendipity or an uncanny sense of timing because it was the thing that I really needed. I teach in the graduate school and I recommend INQUIRER's Wednesday issue, specifically "People at Work" to my students. In fact, it becomes our usual "grist for the mill" for a livelier discussion. You are really scerebral and spiritual.

Romel M. Oribe

For Tita Datu Puangco:

I read your article and have confirmed to myself the validity of your analysis and advice around shyness. I was a shy person early in my career and thanks to my changed attitude, I eventually overcame it. I will share your article with my eldest daughter who has a similar problem so she can understand more the dynamics of her problem.

Thanks also for plugging the Toastmasters organization. Again, my appreciation for your well-written article. More power to your organization.

Hermie Adriano

ERRATUM

IN the People at Work Feb. 7 issue, the quote of Vicky Avena should read "Although the law in its majesty does try to be fair, practitioners who are not always on the level—or honest—can be a problem." We regret the error.

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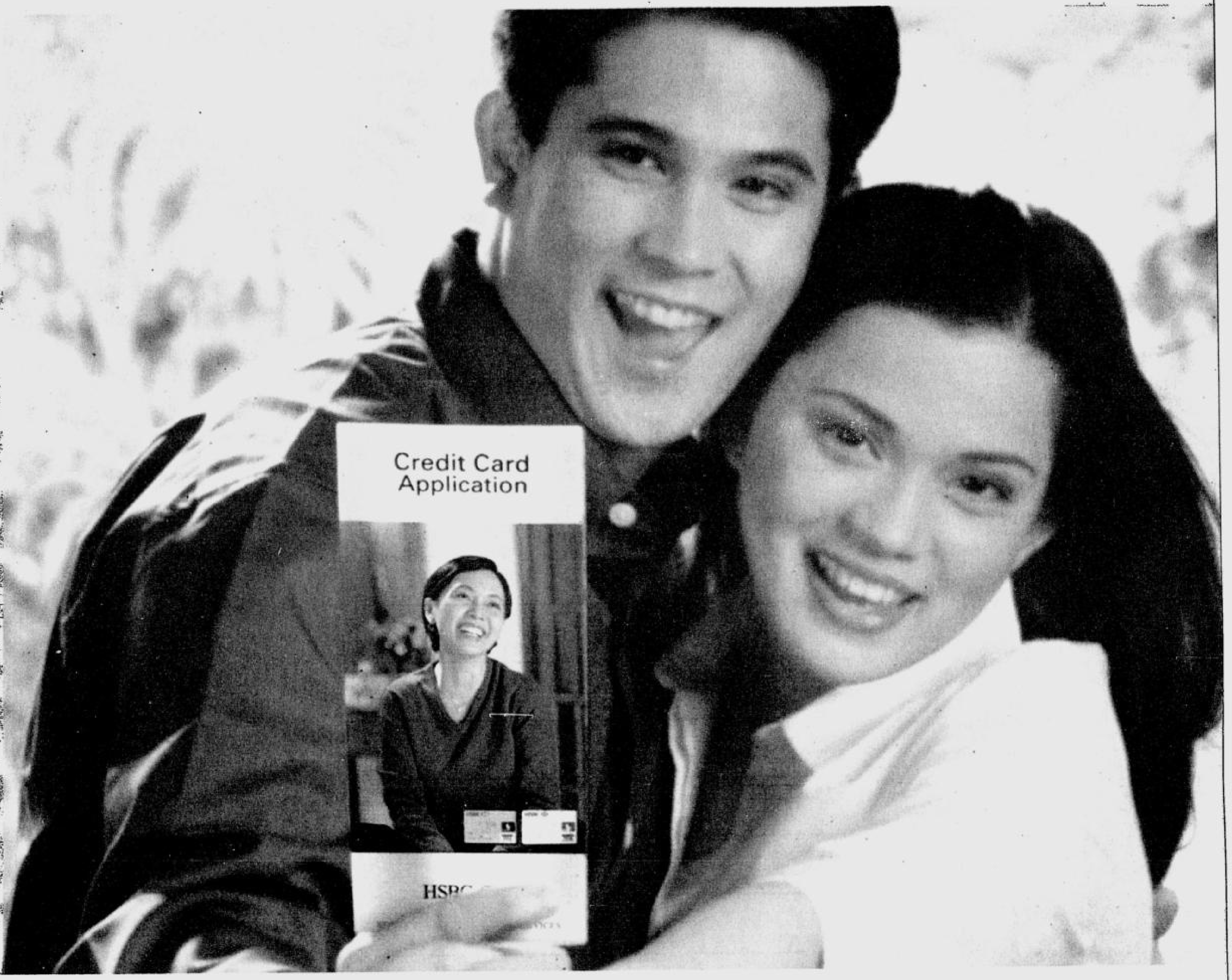

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CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor
C1

PROM KING AND QUEEN. Mike Huang and Audrey Tan

2bU! prom toasts coming of age

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY TIM YAP

IT truly is the season of the new guard. Last week's "2bu Cheezball Prom 2001" bore witness to young Manila's penchant for party-hopping and a lot more.

As early as 5 p.m., traffic was already building up in the city as lovers prepared for dinner, scoured the flower and gift shops, and went to beauty salons for that all-important Valentine date.

We at 2bu didn't get to take care of our dates (well, sort of) as we were busy, hands full of crepe paper, beads and trimmings sprucing up for the night. Yes, it was our prom party—but we didn't see it as only that. It was as important to us as a president's oath-taking or a breadwin-

2BU/ p.C2

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BEST-DRESSED. Wendy Puyat (extreme left) and Patrick Reyno (third from left) with Pepper Teehankee and Celine Lopez

PERFECT TIMING. Swatch model Troy Montero, Tessa-Prieto Valdes, 2bU! original Leica Carpo and Ricky Dee

ONLINE INTOXICATION. Hutu's Hut owner Philip Pastoral (extreme left), Miren Padilla (center), Eddie Boy Santos, Pinoycentral.com's Yasmine Hidalgo and friend

2bU! prom toasts coming of age

THREE YOUNG STUDS AND A LADY. Joey Chanco, Patrick Garcia, Pam Pastor and BJ Afable

PROM HAPPY. Sari Sari's GP Reyes

NOT JUST FOR KIDS. Inquirer's Kenny Nuyda (center)

UNITED COLORS OF THE PROM. Joji Dingcong, Vina Morales, Jon Scahffer and Happy David

(From page C1)

ner's college graduation. It was, to us, a rite of passage.

When the program started at the party's peak, Hutu's Hut on Kalayaan Avenue, Makati was filled with a great mix of prom-night revelers—show biz denizens, corporate friends and sponsors, students and artists all in random revelry. Some people were having their pictures taken at the balloon arch while some were enjoying the drinks at the bar.

Interior designer Miguel Rosales expertly decorated the venue with couches supplied by Sari Sari. He draped the bar with beads and had crepe paper cascading from the ceiling for that oh-so-prom look.

The crowd enjoyed the vibrant tunes of Manila's premiere DJ Manolet Dario (text 0917-529-9312 for his mixed CDs).

What is a prom without a king and a queen? Audrey Tan and Mike Huang were crowned Queen and King of the "2bU! Cheezball Prom." Audrey looked every inch a queen in her purple shantung ball skirt and baby pink bustier. Mike was the perfect king in his all-gray ensemble.

Other awards were given out. Chosen best-dressed female was Weng Puyat, straight from gay Paris. Patrick Reyno, in his royal blue Comme des Garcon ruffled top, stole the best-dressed male award from Sari Sari Store's GP Reyes, who came in a very cheesy yet ultra-fashionable red-maroon necktie.

ROYALTY and the chief

Nostalgic

I remember getting nostalgic as my cohost Celine Lopez called on new 2bu chief Pam Pastor, radiant in a role she had been doing for quite some time now. Pam has always taken the sidelines and humbly done her best to make 2bu the best it can be.

All of a sudden, memories of how the section started flashed across my mind. From its birth by style-setter Leica Carpo to its current status now, indeed 2bu has grown.

To our sponsors Hutu's Hut, Radius, Sari Sari, Kickers, Monster Radio RX 93.1, Candymag.com and Globe—countless thanks for believing in us.

This space is not enough to thank everyone who has been with us through the years, but you know who you are. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you so much.

In the meantime, witness 2bu's new guard.

> More than a prom, 'Cheezball 2001' was a rite of passage

PROM PERFECT. 2bU! staff with Hazel Soriaga and Happy David

GIRLS GALORE. Melissa Gibbs, Faith Amigo (thrid from left), Sam Lopez and friend

CREATIVE ENERGY. Anna Cruz, Vina, Epy Quizon and Manolet Dario

FRESH. Paolo Raymundo, Mimi Samson, Audrey Nguyen Carpio

2bU!'S BABY. Tammy David and friends

PAROKYA NI MIGUEL. Vinci Montaner, Hazel Soriaga of PDI, Miguel Rosales and Mae Young

HIGH SPIRITS. Eddie Boy Santos, Celine Madamba and Barbie Puzon

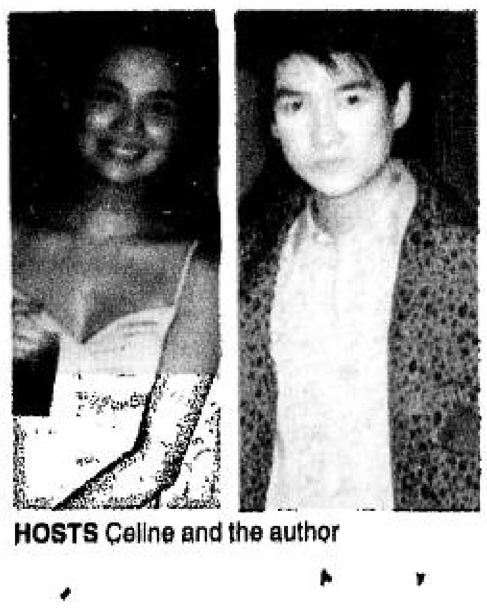
DON'T SWITCH. Canadian DJ Steve Mills and Troy

PARTY-REVELERS. Martin and Chris Litton

THE POWER OF TWO. Eddie Boy Santos and Philip Pastoral

CHEEK-TO-CHEEK. Miguel Rosales and Roach Sawit

ROM PRINCESSES. Lana Asanin and Vina Morales



HOSTS Celine and the author

GRAND finals winners: (from left) Jacob Israel D. Clemente (songwriting), Gabriela M. Francisco (vocals/classical), Marai Gerda I. Opague (vocals/pop) and Wildon Benedict M. Cariaga (vocals/Broadway)

Musika: A celebration of youth, music and friendship

THEY came in from all over Luzon, Masbate, and Iloilo to perform and compete with their high school peers. Accompanied by their parents, teachers and friends, they came armed with a goal. A dream. It was the moment they have been preparing for.

The competition, which, some say, could rival the bigger and more established musical competitions in the country, started at 6 p.m.

Three hours later, at around 9 p.m., when the names of the winners were called out, shouts and tears of joy filled the huge Teatro Aguinaldo in Camp Aguinaldo, QC. At last, the waiting was over. The official results of the 2nd Kenny Rogers Roasters Music Competition, dubbed as Musika II, were out.

It was indeed a celebration of music, of youth, of life. A celebration of the camaraderie among contestants. Of young people building a future in music. As Jose Mari G. Pelaez, executive director of the Center for Students and Cocurricular Affairs of DECS, puts it: "I believe that music is an alternative career for our students. If they have the talent to excel in the field, then by all means, they should be supported and assisted to be the best they can be."

And Musika II is the embodiment—the heart and soul—of this support. Those who helped Kenny Rogers Roasters make this undertaking a resounding success were Juan Miguel Rodriguez, Musika spokesperson, and the judges who donated their time and talents. The judges for the songwriting competition were Trina Belamide, chair and president of Katha; Ryan Cayabyab, composer/musical arranger/musical director, and Jimmy Antiporda, musical director and composer. For the Solo Vocals Broadway Competition—Jai Sabas, professor, UP College of Music, and Carlo Orosa and Robert Seña, stage actors. For the Solo Vocals Classical Competition—Nolyn Cabahug, tenor; Ramon Acoymo, professor, UP College of Music, and John Lesaca, musical director. For the Solo Vocals Pop Competition—Peewee M. Apostol, country manager/Warner Chappel Music Phils. Inc.; Nonoy Zuñiga, artist; and Nonoy Tan, Filscap.

Aside from other prizes, the grand winners will receive four-year music scholarships in the country's music colleges. But not only that. Winners in the Songwriting Competition will also get a two-year publishing contract (recording and promotion) for their winning songs, from Warner Chappel Music Phils. Inc.

So once the students finish high school, they can immediately pursue a career in the world of music.

Vic Gregorio, marketing manager of Roasters Philippines, sums it all up by saying, "There's goodness in Musika!"

The winners in songwriting are: Jacob Israel Clemente, Centro Escolar University, first place; Felicity Gwen Elizalde, Assumption College, Iloilo, second place; and Myra Julips Mores, San Jacinto National High School, third place.

Vocals-Classical—first place, Gabriela Francisco, De La Salle Zobel, Ayala Alabang; second place, Ben Girard Valdez, Regional Science High School, Olongapo City.

Vocals-Broadway—first place, Wildon Benedict Cariaga, Ilocos Sur National High School, Vigan; second place, Ma. Kristina Cindy Aguilar, Aquinas University Science Oriented, Legaspi City.

Vocals-Pop—first place, Maria Gerda Opague, Holy Infant Montessori Center, Metro Manila; second place, Kathleen Rae Jumaquio, International Montessori Center, Malolos, Bulacan.

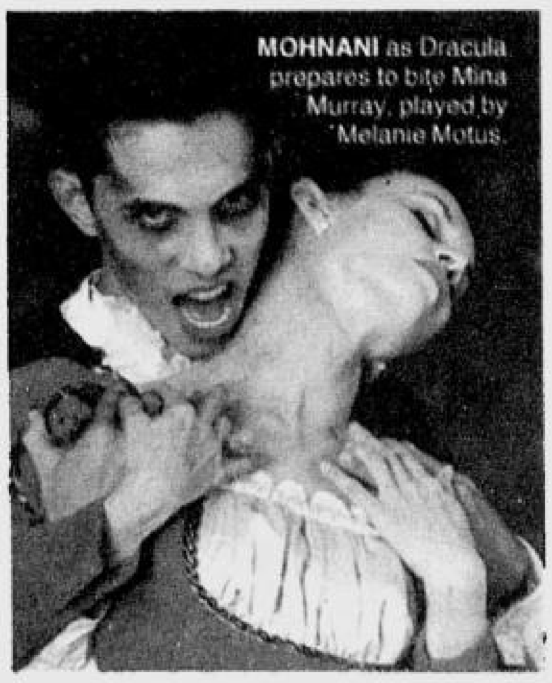
Ballet Manila restages 'Dracula'

BALLET Manila, with the GSIS, brings the bloodthirsty royal back to life in Paul Vasterling's "Dracula," which goes onstage at 8 p.m. on Feb. 23-24, March 2-3, and at 3 p.m. on Feb. 24-25, March 3-4, at the GSIS Theater on Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City.

Aside from celebrating Ballet Manila's sixth anniversary, this season's performance of "Dracula" also marks the much-awaited return of artistic associate and principal ballerina Lisa Macuja, who gave birth to her second child, Manuel Cesar Elizalde, last August.

Also included in the repertoire are pieces from BM's recently concluded Russian tour: the Philippine premiere of Agnes Locsin's "Sayao sa Pamlang," Ric Culalic's "Ouch!" and Hazel Sabas-Gower's award-winning "Deconstructing Gershwin." Artistic Director is Eric V. Cruz.

Call Ballet Manila at 512-5031/5032, 525-1584/5967. Visit www. balletmanila.com.



MOHNANI as Dracula prepares to bite Mina Murray, played by Melanie Motus.

BM soloist Christopher Mohnani plays the title role in Paul Vasterling's "Dracula," a ballet adaptation of the Bram Stoker novel

'UK Superclub Renaissance' goes on world tour

SMIRNOFF Mule with NBK presents "UK Superclub Renaissance 2001—The World Tour," featuring DJ Timo Maas of Germany (Ministry Magazine's DJ of the Year) on March 1 at seveneightorange, 7840 Makati Ave., Makati City. Also featured are Manolet Dario (NBK) and Robert Villaluz (seveneightorange).

Doors open at 9 p.m. with entrance fee of P200 for members, P250 for flyer holders and P350 for nonflyer holders. Discount flyers are available at seveneightorange, Insomnia and Matina, Glorietta Cul-de-Sac, People are People, Diesel, Photo Depot, Store Co., Surf World, Tower Records, Music One, Propaganda Salon, Basement Salon, Paramount Gym, Rockwell Power Plant: Nike Stadium, Che Bar, Milkwear and Café Mediterranean.

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Workshop on creative nonfiction at Ayala Museum

A FOUR-SESSION workshop on the writing of creative nonfiction, including memoirs, travelogs, profiles, interview stories, etc., will be conducted by Cristina Pantoja Hidalgo at the Ayala Museum for four consecutive Saturdays beginning Feb. 24. The workshop will be held 9 a.m.-12 nn.

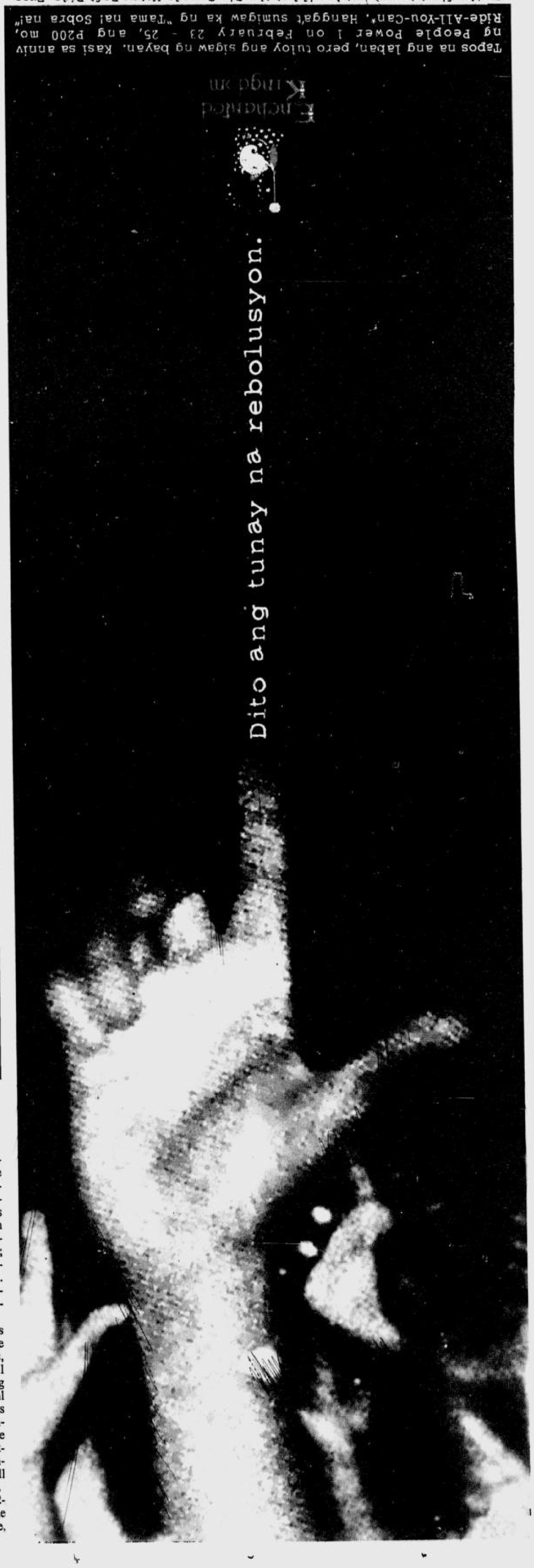
Hidalgo, director of the UP Creative Writing Center, has published more than 15 books of fiction and nonfiction, and has won numerous literary awards, including the prestigious Palanca Prize and National Book Award of the Manila Critics' Circle. She teaches creative writing and literature at UP and directs the UP National Writers' Workshops.

The creative nonfiction workshop is part of a series conducted by the Escuela sa Museo and Lead Inc. Ongoing is a workshop in the writing of the short story, conducted by award-winning fictionist Susan Lara.

Other writing workshops scheduled for the year are: Creative Writing for Children (beginning March 24); Introduction to Creative Writing for Children, to be conducted by Carla Pacis (beginning April 21); Oral Communication for Children by Carla Pacis (beginning April 18); Introduction to Creative Writing by Prof. Wendell Capili (beginning April 21); and Poetry Workshop by Prof. Gemino H. Abad (beginning June 16). All are distinguished writers connected with the UP Creative Writing Center.

Part of the Ayala Museum's continuing education program, the modules are designed for students, professionals, housewives and all who wish to improve their writing but have no time to enroll in formal university courses. Participants meet for three hours for four consecutive Saturdays and produce manuscripts which will be submitted to the facilitators for comments. Groups will be kept small for the benefit of the participants.

Call Ethel Villafranca at 812-1191 to -97 local 130, or visit the Ayala Museum, Makati Avenue, Makati City.



Tapos na ang laban, pero tuloy ang sigaw ng bayan. Kasi sa aniv ng People Power 1 on February 23 - 25, ang P200 mo, Ride-All-You-Can*. Hangga't sumigaw ka ng "Tama na! Sobra na!"

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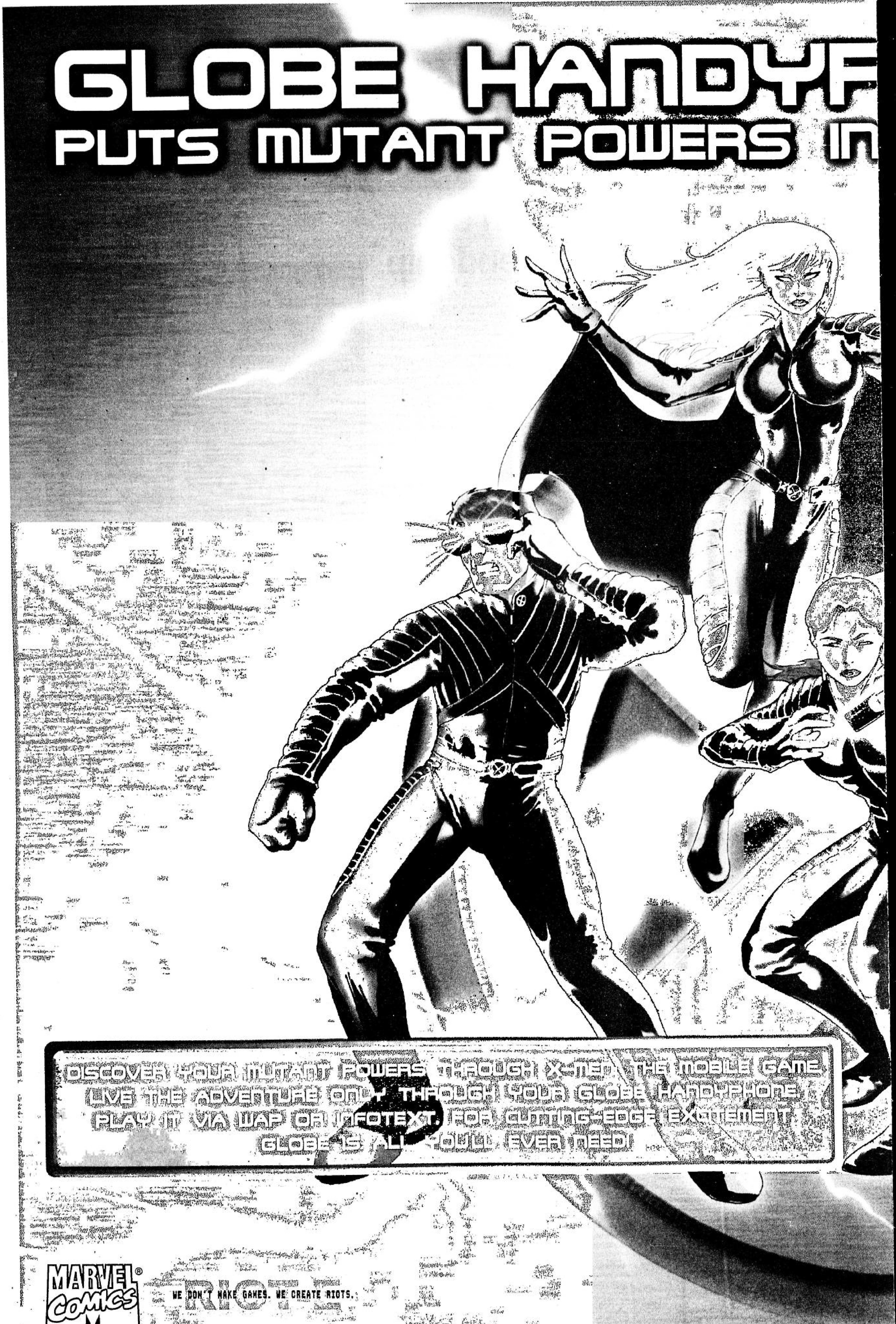
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When punk is really bad, it is really good

REVIEWS

ASIDE from gushy unrequited love lyrics of boy bands and crooning divas, teens can also relate to unrequited love lyrics [illegible] skateboard totin', sneaker-wearing musicians. And they're not bound by "I'm gonna love [illegible] forever" lines.

Who would have known you could write so many songs about love, life, snot, booze and sex with only three chords? Welcome to the world of punk music.

What used to be part [illegible] "lost" scene [illegible] opposed to the khaki and GAP-wearing crowd), the kids with the spiked hair, rock shirts and Puma sneaks have managed to establish their music in the mainstream.

Back when The Offspring and Green Day were the only punk rockers in the charts, the likes of Blink 182 and The Ataris were ringing out the headphones of every X-Games candidate. What better genre of music to relate to than those three-chord "I can sing about anything under the sun—literally" who didn't wash their hair and went against every rule in school?

Thanks to Blink 182 for their highly commercial third album, "Enema [illegible] has began to go m[illegible] After shelling [illegible] are the most hilarious [illegible] er to grace MTV (too bad they didn't see the vids for "Dammit" and "Josie"), punk bands are starting to get attention from more than just their skater, punk-friendly crowd.

So who says three's a crowd? In the world of punk, two's a company, three's a party... and more would be just too gnarly. Two punk albums that have just been released early this year get a grilling—both have three members, both are from California (Green Day hails from San Francisco, Blink 182 from San Diego) and both scored high on the charts. And, well, that's where the similarities end.

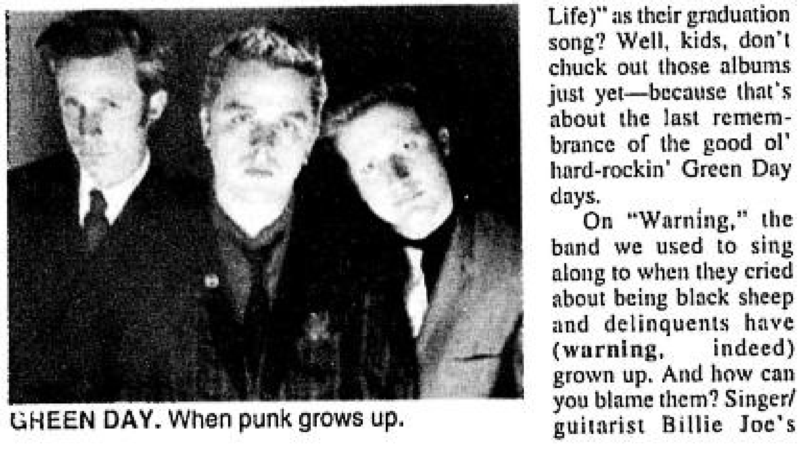
BLINK 182's Live album

Warning
Green Day
Warner Music

REMEMBER when you used to crank up "Dookie" and thought you were just the coolest creature on earth and started playing air guitar to "Basketcase"? Well, okay, maybe not all of us had dreams of sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll, but when Green Day popped up from their native Frisco, *everyone* wanted to start reciting statements of freedom and rebellion.

And who could forget "Insomniac" that spawned hits like "Jaded" and "Walking Contradiction"? And then "Nimrod," where numerous graduating students proclaimed "Good Riddance (Time of Your Life)" as their graduation song? Well, kids, don't chuck out those albums just yet—because that's about the last remembrance of the good ol' hard-rockin' Green Day days.

On "Warning," the band we used to sing along to when they cried about being black sheep and delinquents have (warning, indeed) grown up. And how can you blame them? Singer/guitarist Billie Joe's pushing 30. He's married and has two kids. Yes, two kids for whom he supposedly gave up drinking and drugs. Billie Joe, who proclaims punk is a lifestyle and not just music. Whatever.


GREEN DAY. When punk grows up.

Green Day's "Warning" still contains songs that speak of life. Sure, there's "Fashion Victim," a song about living up to society's expectations. "Castaway" is about being alone and living your life. "Hold On" is about being independent and holding on to your instincts. "Waiting" is about reaching for goals and dreams.

So what's the deal, you ask? How about trying to sound 17 when you're 30? No matter how Billie Joe proclaims he wants to be part of the minority and that he "doesn't need your authority," well, duh, you're pushing the big 3-0, you *are* the authority or at least you're close to being that. When Billie starts stomping his foot and hitting those riffs while reciting lyrics about compromise—even though it's in a romantic and teen-related sort of way—we still can't believe him ("Church on Sunday"). The music obviously got hitched, too—to '60s, '70s happy-happy and almost country-like music. Some songs could have fit well in a "Happy Days" episode and "Misery" could have been an aria in a Broadway musical.

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Blink 182
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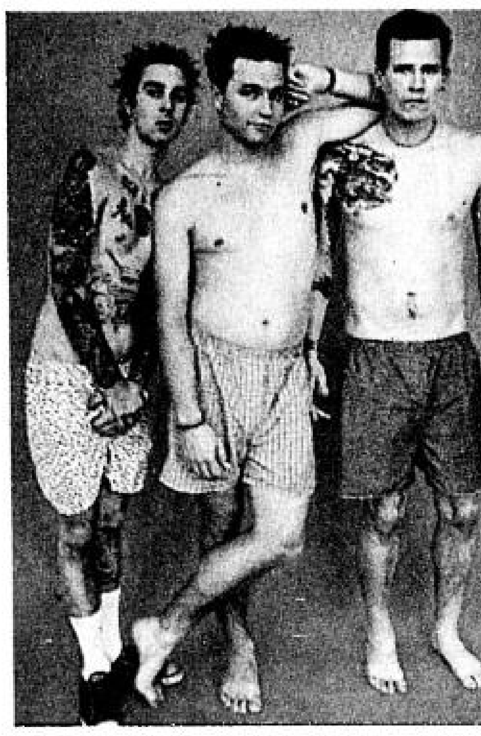
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18 Candles.
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- Three-layered fondant birthday cake
- Eighteen long-stemmed fresh roses and bouquet for the debutante
- One glass of softdrink or juice per person
- Mobile disco
- Torch parade for cake-cutting ceremony
- # 18 balloon centerpiece
- Balloon decor for the presidential table
- Balloon centerpiece for each table
- Guestbook and menu cards
- De luxe fruit basket (in the room)
- Special room and food discounts for friends and relatives
- More amenities for 200 persons and above

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MANILA MIDTOWN HOTEL 1976 - 2001

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When punk is really bad, it is really good

REVIEWS

ASIDE from gushy unrequited love lyrics of boy bands and crooning divas, teens can also relate to unrequited love lyrics [illegible] skateboard totin', sneaker-wearing musicians. And they're not bound by "I'm gonna love [illegible] forever" lines.

Who would have known you could write so many songs about love, life, snot, booze and sex with only three chords? Welcome to the world of punk music.

What used to be part of those "teens" (as opposed to the khaki and GAP-wearing crowd), the kids with the spiked hair, rock shirts and Puma sneaks have managed to establish their music in the mainstream.

Back when The Offspring and Green Day were the only punk rockers in the charts, the likes of Blink 182 and The Ataris were ringing out the headphones of every X-Games candidate. What better genre of music to relate to than those three-chord "I can sing about anything under the sun—literally" who didn't wash their hair and went against every rule in school?

Thanks to Blink 182 for their highly commercial third album, "Enema [illegible]" has began to go m[illegible] g[illegible]. After shelling [illegible] are the most hilarious [illegible] er to grace MTV (too bad they didn't see the vids for "Dammit" and "Josie"), punk bands are starting to get attention from more than just their skater, park-friendly crowd.

So who says three's a crowd? In the world of punk, two's a company, three's a party... and more would be just too gnarly. Two punk albums that have just been released early this year get a grilling—both have three members, both are from California (Green Day hails from San Francisco, Blink 182 from San Diego) and both scored high on the charts. And, well, that's where the similarities end.

Warning
Green Day
Warner Music

REMEMBER when you used to crank up "Dookie" and thought you were just the coolest creature on earth and started playing air guitar to "Basketcase"? Well, okay, maybe not all of us had dreams of sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll, but when Green Day popped up from their native Frisco, *everyone* wanted to start reciting statements of freedom and rebellion.

And who could forget "Insomniac" that spawned hits like "Jaded" and "Walking Contradiction"? And then "Nimrod," where numerous graduating students proclaimed "Good Riddance (Time of Your Life)" as their graduation song? Well, kids, don't chuck out those albums just yet—because that's about the last remembrance of the good ol' hard-rockin' Green Day days.

GREEN DAY. When punk grows up.

On "Warning," the band we used to sing along to when they cried about being black sheep and delinquents have (**warning**, indeed) grown up. And how can you blame them? Singer/guitarist Billie Joe's pushing 30. He's married and has two kids. Yes, two kids for whom he supposedly gave up drinking and drugs. Billie Joe, who proclaims punk is a lifestyle and not just music. Whatever.

BLINK 182's Live album

Green Day's "Warning" still contains songs that speak of life. Sure, there's "Fashion Victim," a song about living up to society's expectations. "Castaway" is about being alone and living your life. "Hold On" is about being independent and holding on to your instincts. "Waiting" is about reaching for goals and dreams.

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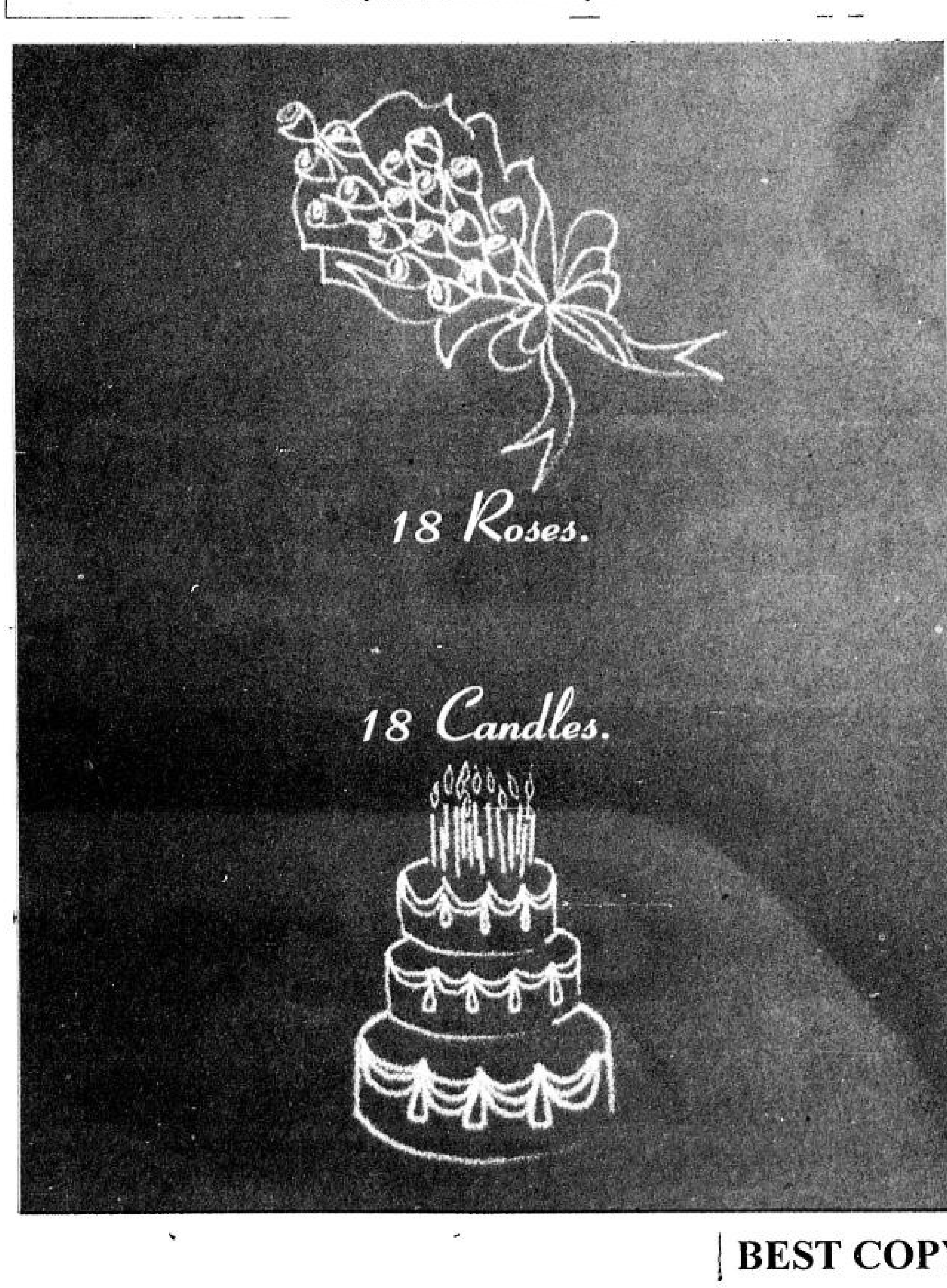
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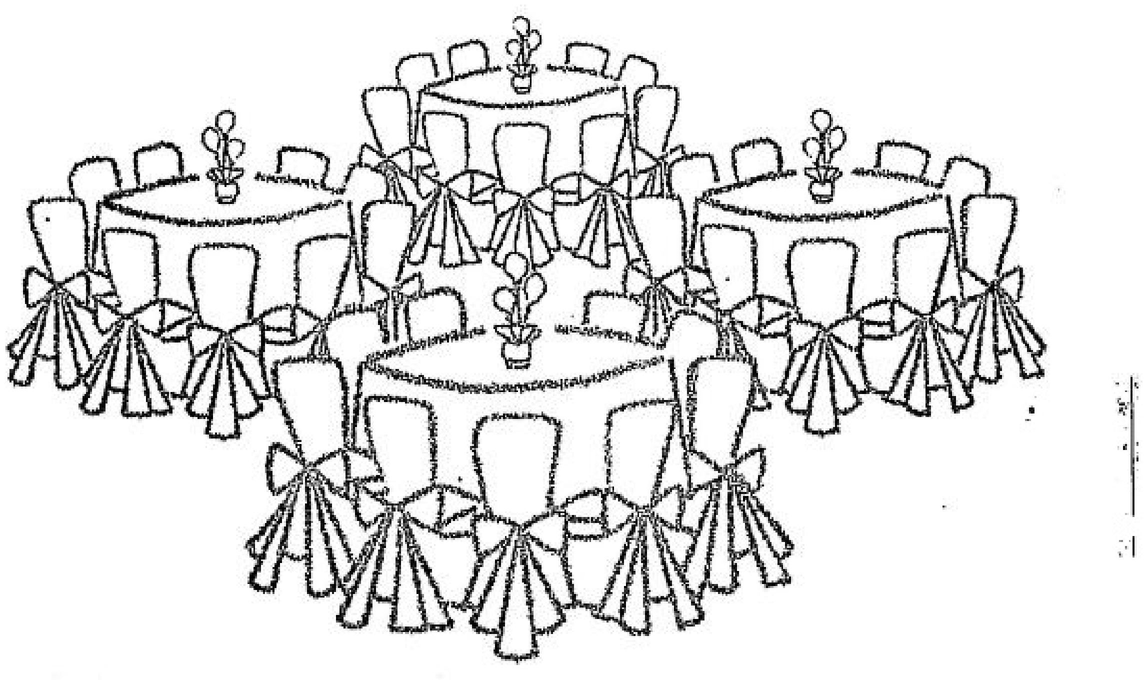

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GLOBE HANDYPHONE

X-MEN BATTLEGUIDE

THE MOBILE GAME

VIA INFOTEXT

Are you a mutant? What are your amazing superhuman powers? Find out by playing Globe Handyphone's X-MEN: The Mobile Game via Infotext. Discover your hidden mutant abilities and train under Professor Xavier. Then compete against other mutants to improve your skills and powers.

The future of the world is in your hands!

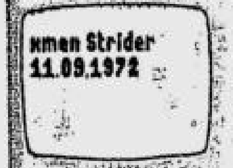
When playing and typing in the commands remember that:

- All messages begin with **xmen**
- Each word or abbreviation must be separated by a space.
- It does not matter if you write in UPPER or lower case. Exceptions to this are code names of other players.
- Every message must be sent to the server at the following number: **2324**
- Two first characters of each game command suffice when the player sends messages. An exception to this is the command XMEN and the code names of other players.

BATTLE COMMANDS

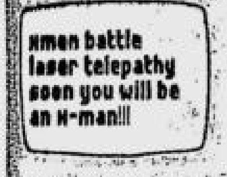
xmen

To join the school for the first time, key-in: **xmen** and send to **2324.**



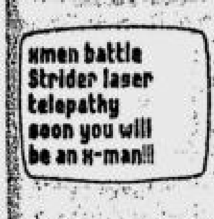
xmen Strider
11.09.1972

Creating your character, key-in: **xmen [code name] [birth date/mm.dd.yyyy]** and send to **2324.**



xmen battle
laser telepathy
soon you will be
an x-man!!!

To practice a duel, key-in: **xmen battle [attack mutation] [defense mutation] [your 50 character message]** and send to **2324.**



xmen battle
Strider laser
telepathy
soon you will
be an x-man!!!

To practice a duel with your friend / against bitter enemy, key-in: **xmen battle [name/phone number] [attack mutation] [defense mutation] [your 50 character message]** and send to **2324.**

xmen battle
laser telepathy
prepare to meet
your doom!!!

To respond to a duel challenge, key-in: **xmen battle [attack mutation] [defense mutation] [your 50 character message]** and send to **2324.**

xmen chat Strider
you cannot hide
from me!

To chat with another player, key-in: **xmen chat [code name] [message]** and send to **2324.**

OTHER COMMANDS:

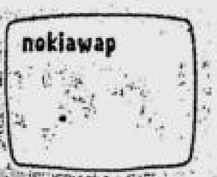
- To check the information on your own game character, key-in: **xmen stats** and send to **2324.**
- To take a break from the game, key-in: **xmen off** and send to **2324.**
- To resume the game, key-in: **xmen on** or **xmen battle** and send to **2324.**
- To quit the game, key-in: **xmen quit** and send to **2324.**
- For general instructions, key-in: **xmen help** and send to **2324**
- To know more about a certain command, key-in: **xmen help [command]** and send to **2324.**
- To know the overview of the game, key-in: **xmen idea** and send to **2324.**

Text Messaging Rates for X-Men: The Mobile Game: ₱2.00 for Plan Subscribers, ₱2.50 for Prepaid Plus Subscribers, for every successful message sent.

VIA WAP

Get ready to save the world from the Magneto and his evil Brotherhood of Mutants. In this WAP version of X-Men: The Mobile Game, you take on the role of Professor Xavier, leader of the X-Men. Your task: fight Magneto's troops who have already taken over cities around the globe. Send your team to these cities and free them from the clutches of those malevolent mutants.

Here's how to get started on the X-MEN: The Mobile Game via WAP:

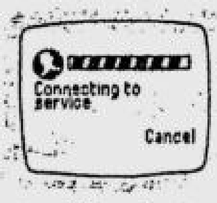


nokiawap

1. If you're a first time WAP-user, key-in the keyword of your phone type and send it to **2333.** The WAP phone configurations will be sent to you. The keywords are: <nokiawap> for Nokia 7110 and 6210, <siemenswap> for Siemens M35i, <ericssonwap> for EricssonR320s, <motorolawap> for Motorola T2288.

Menu
Services
Home
Exit

2. If your WAP handset is already configured, go to the services menu of your WAP-capable phone and click on Home.



3. You will then see a prompt advising you that you are being connected to the service.

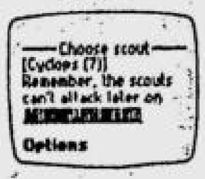
GLOBE TELECOM
GLOBE TELECOM
New Sites

4. Once connected, the Globe Homepage will appear. Find and click on XMEN under the New Sites and Games Category and WAP away.

Here's how to play X-MEN: The Mobile Game via WAP:

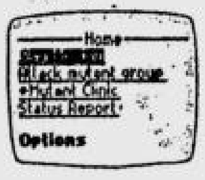
Cyclops (2/3)
Options

STARTING THE MISSION: Click on **Start new mission** on the main menu. To start a mission, pick one city out of three alternatives. After you have chosen the city, you can either send a scout or make an attack plan.



Choose scout
[Cyclops (7)]
Remember, the scouts can't attack later on
Options

SENDING A SCOUT: To collect more information about your opponents in the chosen city you can send a scout. Do this by clicking on **Send a scout.** Each scout that is sent brings back information on one of the opponent's team members; name, location, and mutant ability level. This information should help you to make your attack plan. The scout, however, cannot be used in combat.



ENEMY: An attack plan is made by clicking on **Make attack plan.** You are presented with pictures of the specific targets. The pictures help you to assign the targets according to your team members' special skills. When a mutant for each target is chosen, click **Launch attack** and that will start the attack.

YOU LOSE!
Wham! Your opponent was simply too ferocious for you. It's
Options

MISSION RESULTS: After every mission, you are informed of the result of the battle and of your team members' new mutation values. If the mission was successful, you can move on to the next city. If not, the mission has to be started over. The second time around is easier, since you now know how the specific targets affect team members' skill levels.

DUEL
Challenge sent to:
Stealthteam
Wait while playing
Options

DUEL WITH OTHER MUTANT GROUPS: Challenge another team to a duel by clicking on the link **Duel.** Then key-in the name of the mutant group you want to challenge or battle a group from a random list of players. The challenge is then forwarded to the opponent assuming he or she is currently active in the game.

Status report
wyslwyg
Options

STATUS REPORT: Click on **Status report** and get info on your mutant group, including your group name, current game level, number of missions completed and duels fought (victories/losses/total amount of duels). The report also tells the number of missions and duels required for moving up one level.

INSTRUCTIONS: Get the complete instructions for the game by clicking **Instructions** on the main page or log on to Globe's website at http://www.globe.com.ph.

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ESTYLE

2bU!

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20 minutes with Collective Soul

By Maui V. Reyes
2bu! Correspondent

WHAT'S it like to be one of the biggest rock bands in the world, having eight No. 1 hits, five albums that have gone seven times platinum and a stunning following? Oddly enough, still down-to-earth and appreciative.

After the demo "Hints, Allegations and Things Left Unsaid," Collective Soul (composed of Ed Roland on guitars, keyboards and vocals, Ross Childress on guitars, Deal Roland on guitars, Will Turpin on bass and percussion, and Shane Evans on drums and percussion) decided to release their first *real* album, simply titled "Collective Soul." The Atlanta band's first major label record spawned hits such as "Gel" and was followed by a bunch of chart-topping albums—"Disciplined Breakdown" in 1997, and the critically acclaimed "Dosage" in 1998, where the infamous single "Shine" came from.

Their latest offering, "Blender," is everything Collective Soul is: rockin' guitar riffs, smooth rhythm and meaningful lyrics. Although what makes "Blender" such a special album is not just Roland's ease in songwriting—various musicians and fans almost *created* the album. Musicians such as Shawn Mullins and Marvelous 3 pitched in some work, as well. And the band took a different path in recording this album.

"We were recording in this big room, so it kind of had an open vibe. We set up couches, people would come in and watch us… some of them, I don't think they knew who we were. It was a real loose vibe, which was good, because with the last record, we spent a lot of time in the studio making sure everything was performed perfectly and arranged perfectly," Ed says. In fact, while recording the song "Vent" for "Blender," Mullins was rehearsing in the other room.

"He heard the groove and he said, 'Hey, there's this part in the breakdown, let me do something.' People just stick their head in and go, 'Hey, can I play?'" Ed shares. The fans also play a big part in the band's career… not only do they buy the records, but they *name* the record. "Blender" was a title drawn from more than 12,000 entries at a local alternative radio station in Atlanta.

The fans play a big part in the band's career; not only do they buy the records, they get to name the records

And, of course, the chance to work with Elton John, one of Ed's rock heroes (he credits him as one of the people who got him into rock music), who collaborated with the band on the song "Perfect Day."

Recently in Manila for the launch of MTV Philippines, Collective Soul not only amused the fans for their willingness to play, but delivered a *very* energetic and power-filled performance at The Fort. Think they're a one-hit wonder band? "We never paid attention to that stuff. We always knew what we could do as a band," says Ed. Take this: as the band sings in "Happiness," "Congratulations/Oh baby I'm back again"… and believe us, we couldn't be happier!

You guys have been around for a long time, selling a *lot* of records. How do you stay grounded?

Ed: I think it's because we come from the same background and we weren't that successful in the beginning, and that kind of humbles you when you kind of remember those years. So that makes us appreciate what we do. And it's not about attitude, it's about the music.

Where do you get all that energy onstage?!

Ed: When the guitar tech doesn't pay attention and you get all upset. (Laughs)

Ross: When the bass player starts playing the different song… (Laughs)

Dean: A lot of times it comes from the energy of the crowd… you know, what the crowd gives you, you feed off that. And the crowd last Saturday was just awesome.

THE AUTHOR with Ed Roland at the MTV launch TAMMY DAVID

Ed: There's just a lot of adrenaline… It's a new place, we're excited, it's the Philippines. I mean, we get to see places most people only get to see on TV.

Do you have any rituals when you get onstage?

Ed: We start sacrificing the bass player. (Laughter)

So what was collaborating with Elton John like?

Ed: Well, he's our musical hero. He was my introduction to rock and roll. That was probably the best, to get into someone you're so into and get to collaborate with him. It doesn't get any better than that! To work with someone you look up to!

Ross: And he's a great guy.

You worked with a lot of other artists on the record. Any other artist you have in mind to work with in the future?

Ed: We get asked that a lot, I'm gonna start working down the line.

Ross: Any of the Beatles… you know, ones left.

Ed: Any of the remaining Beatles… U2, if they want to drop by, that's cool. REM… Peter Gabriel wanted to come by and say hey, you know, that would be great.

So what inspires you to write songs?

Ed: You know that answer is already there, you get inspiration from everyday life. Just having the experience to live, and get to express it.

Whenever you write, do you have a direct audience in mind?

Ed: No. When we write songs, we please each other, the five guys in the band. That's where it starts. We write to please ourselves, so that's what we control. Usually when you start targeting audiences, you start to get lost and I think that's going to be real and people will feel and see that.

Ed, you wrote all the songs on "Blender." Do the others write as well?

Ed: Yeah, Ross wrote and sang on the last record. Dean writes, too, he wrote on the last record. Shane also… The writing thing just comes with time. It's something you have to get comfortable with, because you pour your heart and soul out. And people will criticize and they probably don't understand it. You know, people will take it good, some will take it

20 MINUTES/ p.D2

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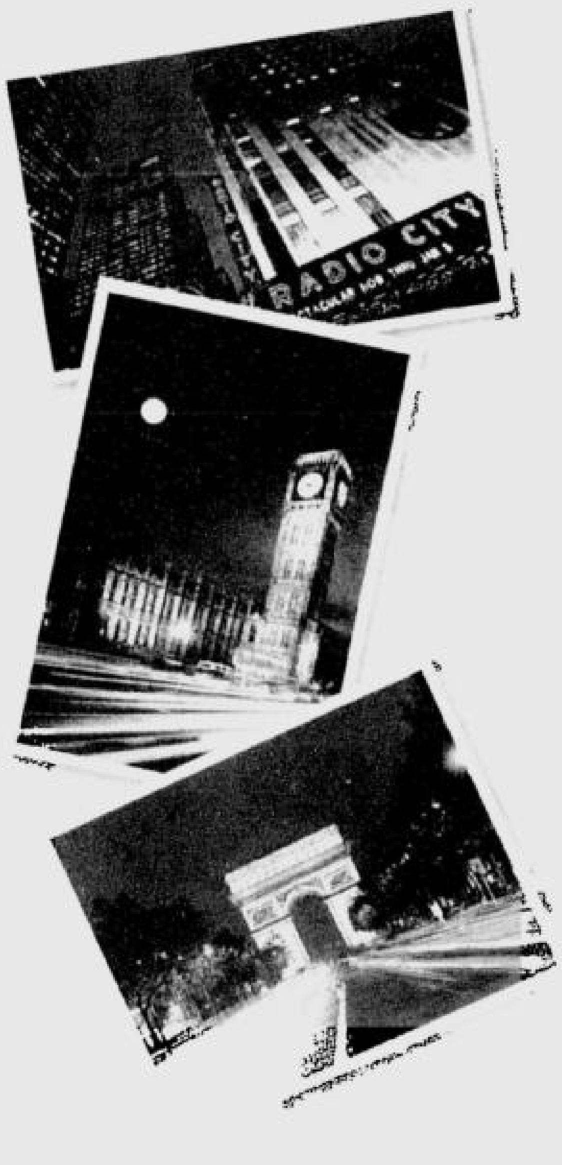

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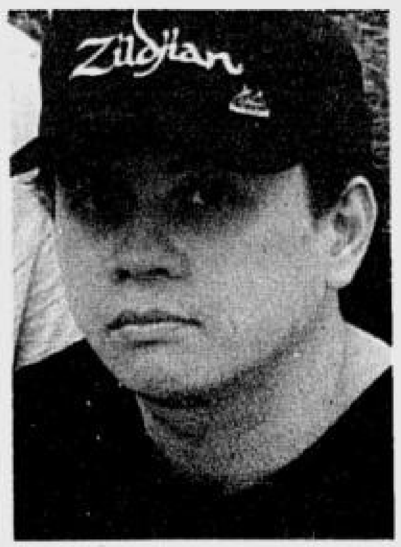
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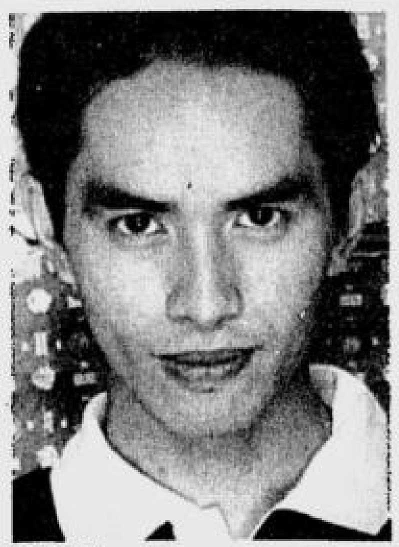
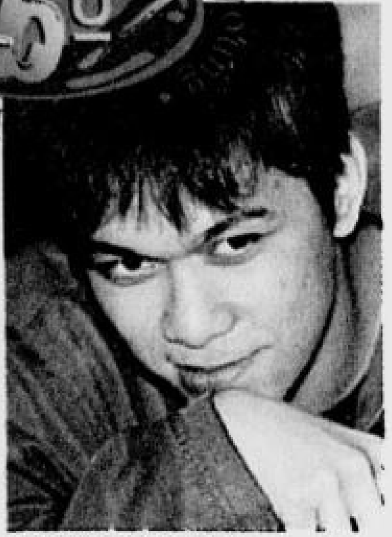

RICO Blanco

JAMIR Garcia


RAIMUND Marasigan

Masters of the live performance

BY PAM PASTOR

FOR A LONG time, my definition of bliss was to spend hours listening and singing along to Alanis Morissette's "Jagged Little Pill," my hand grappling for my own harmonica. It was the same when "Supposed Former Infatuation Junkie" came out. While a lot of "The Pill" fans turned their backs on Alanis, claiming that she "has lost her angst," "has gone bonkers" and was "too weird," I held on, and even bought front-row tickets to her second concert. (The tickets for her 1993 concert sold out so fast that I had to bring binoculars to see her from my seat.)

While simply listening to her at home was a pleasure, watching her on stage was sheer heaven. Being so close to her that I could almost grab her ankles (if the burly, grim-faced security men weren't in the way), watching her hair whip around as she drove the crowd to a frenzy, hearing her powerful vocals and actually seeing the mouth from which the songs poured out… it was almost spiritual. I never wanted the concert to end.

After that experience, listening to her CDs just made me feel wistful. There's something about a good live performance—it can just reach and touch your soul.

In the local music scene, people feel the same way. That's why you see people queuing up to shows for hours. That's why MTV's concert last Saturday was so packed with people that they literally spilled over the streets. But are there enough places to satisfy the OPM-loving Pinoy's insatiable hunger for good live music? Let some of the more prominent figures in the music scene tell you.

Jim Ayson started his love affair with music in high school, when he started playing the drums. In college, he played for jazz bands before moving on to new wave rock. For seven years he shifted his focus to songwriting and playing the keyboards.

He then joined Mexicali Blues and started playing again until 1998. Today, he plays a different role in the music industry. He has brought Filipino music online. "The first music site I did was an official site True Faith in 1995." Today, he "writes some and edits the content, handles a little webmastering and all the digital photography" for three-time Webby winner Philmusic.com which first went online in 1997.

Vernon Go, editor in chief of the controversial music publication Pulp (the 2bU! Readers' Poll's Best Magazine for 2000 winner), entered the music industry "through the backdoor." He started writing album reviews for a magazine 12 years ago "in a galaxy far, far away."

Twenty-nine-year-old Wolf Gemora was the roadie of Razorback in 1991. A few months later, he decided to form his own band, known to everyone today as Wolfgang.

Called the song-poet by the media, Davao-born Cynthia Alexander has long been making waves in music. And what powerful waves they have been. She started as Hayp's bassist and moved on to become part of her brother Joey Ayala's Bagong Lumad. She has released two solo albums since then, garnering awards in the process.

Twenty-year-old Zach Lucero is a DJ at NU 107. He doesn't just play other people's music, he also makes his own. He was part of Hungry Young Poets and is now the drummer of Imago.

Jamir Garcia, 21, started in the music scene as the vocalist of a band called Kung Fu-Fly. Soon, he joined Slapshock and became the group's lead vocalist. The group released a successful album, "4th Degree Burn" and Jamir continues to write songs for the group.

CYNTHIA Alexander

Who doesn't know Rico Blanco? The 27-year-old is Rivermaya's vocalist, guitarist and keyboard player. The 2bU! Readers' Poll's Band of the Year for 2000 currently made waves with their album, "Free," which they gave out to fans for free, in their desire to hit piracy in the face.

Glenn Jacinto, now 25, formed Teeth with his friends in 1993, after graduating from high school. They released their first album in 1995. The rest is history.

Like many other aspiring musicians, 29-year-old Raimund Marasigan started honing his talent in high school. His love for music led him to the phenomenally successful Eraserheads, which started in 1989. Raimund is the drummer of Eraserheads. He has also formed another successful band, Sandwich, where he sings and plays the guitar.

Twenty-three-year-old vocalist and guitar player Barbie Almalbis started playing the guitar when she was 11. She formed Hungry Young Poets, which topped the charts. Today, she draws audiences with her riffs and powerful vocals. No wonder her new band, Barbie's Cradle, has become more and more popular every day.

In the anything-goes ambience of concerts, they reign supreme

Your favorite local act?

Jim: I have a lot of favorites—it depends on the musical genre. For pop/alternative, Barbie's Cradle and Cynthia Alexander. For rock, Razorback, Sandwich, Rivermaya, Eraserheads; for jazz, Ugoy Ugoy, J.R. Cobb and Buhay (Tots Tolentino's quartet). For not-quite jazz but a lot of Bohemian fun, Radioactive Sago Project.

Vernon: Battery, Sky Church, Dahong Palay.

Wolf: Aside from Razorback, Loads of Motherhood.

Zach: Joey Ayala, Cynthia Alexander, Grace Nono.

Jamir: Radioactive Sago.

Rico: Eraserheads.

Glenn: Barbie's Cradle.

Raimund: Twisted Halo, Cynthia Alexander, Rivermaya, and a whole lot of bands.

Barbie: Rivermaya, Cynthia Alexander, Ugoy Ugoy.

What are the best places for live music in the Philippines? Why do you consider these places the best?

Jim: Again it depends on the genre. For alternative music, '70s Bistro and Freedom Bar in Quezon City. For jazz, Monk's Dream in Makati. Galo's in Sucat, Parañaque had both rock and jazz at one point, and the acoustics and the feel of the place are quite nice. Music Museum in Greenhills is another nice place for gigs—and I like the fact that it has dramatic stage lighting for taking photographs of musicians. Hard Rock Cafe in Makati is okay, but they usually have show bands there.

'70s Bistro and Freedom Bar have a very informal, comfortable feel so musicians who play there are at ease and give good performances. Monk's Dream is the only club in town that has an all-jazz lineup, so I support that because it's making a statement about bucking the trend in live music. Music Museum and Galo's have excellent acoustics, even live albums have been recorded there. It's really all about the music, but the ambiance helps a bit. I don't really care too much about food and beverage in those places, the music is the most important thing.

Vernon: Mayric's has obviously withstood the test of time, but it certainly is no place for great sound. Hobbit House always seems to have some great blues bands. The PICC works sometimes. I remember I saw BB King there—that was great. Folk Arts (Theater) is okay. It's not so much the venue as the people and the energy and, of course, the sound system and the sound engineering that will make a gig… as well as an ample supply of free-flowing beer.

Wolf: Mayric's, '70s Bistro—they're there all the time. In Mayric's, whatever music you play, as long as you're good, they'll let you play. In '70s, the ambiance is very laid back, very homey.

Cynthia: '70s Bistro, CCP, Gotham. You'll find groups that play their own music. That's exciting, fresh and new. Television does not supply that.

Zach: Mayric's, '70s Bistro, Music Museum, Jekyll and Hyde near La Salle, school fairs and NU 107 events. They promote OPM. They don't require that you do covers of popular songs. They push original music and that is good.

Jamir: Streets and open-air concerts because they're very accessible to people.

Rico: A gig at a non-regular club, in big fields of schools, open-air concerts. You not only enjoy the band, you also enjoy the crowd.

Glenn: Mayric's, '70s Bistro, because they cater to original music.

Raimund: Clubs in QC, schools, '70s Bistro. Good crowd, good food, good management, good crew.

Barbie: I like Gotham and Mayric's because they have bands that play original music. They support the full integrity of artists and originality. Plus, they're not expensive.

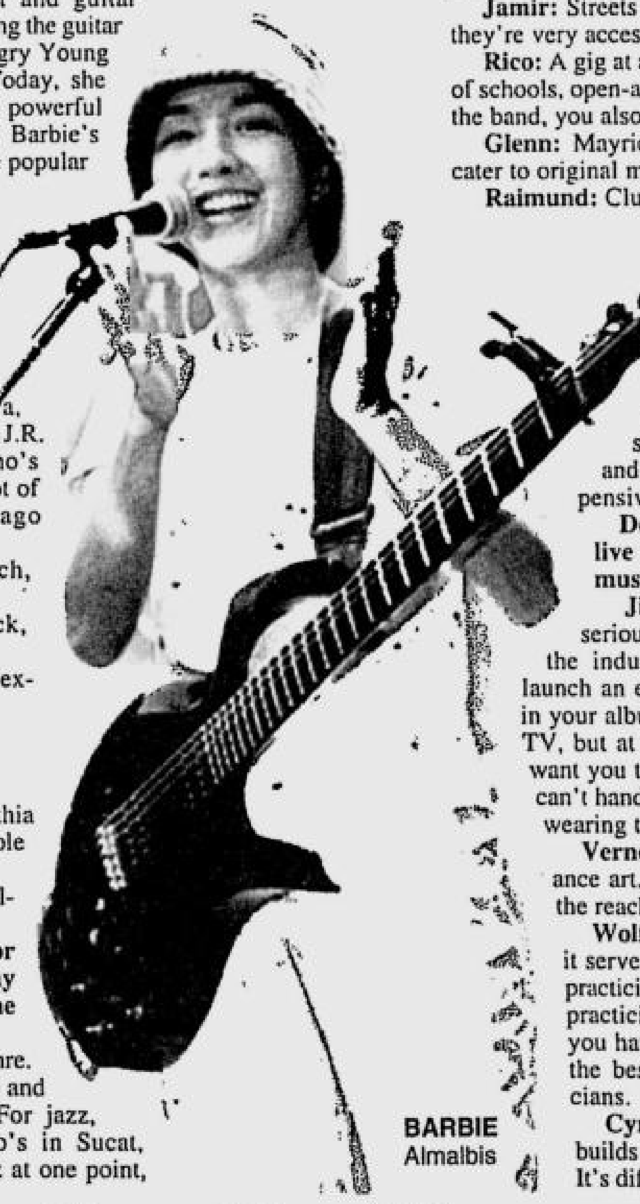
Do you think holding regular live performances is essential to a musician's success?

Jim: Yes, if you want to be taken seriously, especially by your peers in the industry. It's actually possible to launch an entire career with studio fakery in your album and a lot of lip-synching on TV, but at one point, people are going to want you to do a live performance. If you can't handle it, it's like being exposed for wearing the emperor's new clothes.

Vernon: Yes. Music is a performance art. Without the live performance, the reach of music is limited.

Wolf: Yeah, definitely. Personally, it serves as on-the-job training. You're practicing in front of an audience, you're practicing your technical ability, how you handle an audience. Experience is the best teacher, especially for musicians.

Cynthia: Yes. It builds heart. It builds the character of the musician. It's different when you're on stage. Experience counts a lot. You can be excellent in the studio or in your own house, but on the stage, you have all the elements against you.


BARBIE Almalbis

Zach: Yes. In a live performance, you get to hear things that you don't hear in records. You'll see the musicians in action.

Jamir: The way you perform is the way people see you. It's different from being in the studio. The level of energy is very different.

Rico: It's not essential, but it would be good for the musicians to perform live. But it's not the only way. There are people who create music and just stay behind the scenes.

Glenn: *Oo naman. Kung walang* gigs, *mawawala ang* essence *ng paggawa ng* music. We write music to share it with others. It's good. The scene is consistent.

Raimund: Yes. That's why you're a musician—you're out to play music.

Barbie: Yeah. It's the closest that you can get to the people.

Is there still a market for live performances today?

Jim: With tough economic times, it might get pretty expensive for everyone to go to the clubs, pay the cover charge or entrance, and buy the drinks and bar-chow just for the right to listen to your favorite artists. So I think attendance may be a little low. Concerts are a better deal for most people nowadays and there are a lot of bargains such as free concerts supported by corporate sponsors. But the club scene is still important, so I hope that more patronize club performances if and when the economy goes on an upturn. In general, the scene would be healthier if the audience encouraged musical diversity. But most "gimmick"-hunting Pinoys follow a herd mentality and approach music as a background for some drinking and dancing instead of real listening. Hence the proliferation of show bands, which is quite unfortunate as this stunts the musical growth of the audience.

Vernon: Most definitely. The Philippines is hungry for all sorts of music. I was pleasantly surprised to learn that The Corrs show (which has been postponed) was sold out fairly quickly. I was shocked to see how many people turned up for Pulp's first anniversary.

Wolf: Yeah. That will never go away. Even from the mid- to late '90s, people were saying "Rock is dead, rock is dead." It dwindled in Manila, but in Visayas and Mindanao, we had really big audiences. It was very much alive. Filipinos like live music—it will never go away.

Cynthia: I think that's where you'll find the spirit of music—you breathe in the audience, they breathe you in. There's an exchange. You don't get that on television, or while listening to the CD.

Zach: Definitely. People are always on the lookout for entertainment. If you say there's no market, it's like saying that music is dead. It's akin to "Eat Bulaga." You see people who have the urge to watch it live because it's a different experience.

Jamir: Definitely. A lot of people prefer live performances because they can really jam with the band—everyone is involved. People jump around with us. There's energy.

Rico: It's growing because of awareness. People are starting to discover the good qualities of live music that they cannot experience at home.

Glenn: *Oo*. Like now, there a lot of people are here. It's not even because it's free. If the lineup is okay, people will really go.

Raimund: Definitely. Like now, we're watching a live show and there are like 10,000 people here. I'm still a music fan. I go to shows of friends and of other acts. There's a different energy when the musicians are performing live. There's give and take. You feed from the audience, you feed them. There's room for improvisation and a chance for mistakes.

Barbie: Yes. Because I experience it.

E-mail the author at pammy@exchange.ph

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20 minutes with Collective Soul

(From page D1)

bad. And you need to be willing to accept that. And learn to find yourself and what you're comfortable with. Ross can do it… Shane can… And Will can, he's been coming up with really great melodies. So it just comes with time.

So let's talk about the album. What's your favorite song on "Blender"?

Ross: Today, it's, uh, "Happiness." It's a nice little rock song, and there's this really cool break in the middle of it.

Ed: I like "Boast." I think that it's got everything Collective Soul is. Good melody… a good riff. The dynamics, acoustics, electric. The new technology…

Dean: "Skin." Good lyrics. Ed did a good job. Not that he didn't on the others.

There are so many "Christian rock bands" out there now, like Vertical Horizon and Creed, what do you have to say about this "trend"?

Ed: You know what, any band can say whatever they want to, and that's what they want to do. We are a rock and roll band, no more, no less. That's all we claim to be. I think it's great. I don't know how to answer that… as long as they're secure with what they call themselves, that's great. But I don't put that as a priority in music. I either like the music or I don't. I don't need a religious description or slogan next to that.

Dean: It doesn't mean that we're not spiritual people and don't adhere to our own individual spiritual faith. But as a whole group, we're Collective Soul, a rock band.

Ed: Just five very different guys in the band. And once you start voicing one's personal opinion it's not fair to others if they don't believe in that.

Have you started writing for the next album?

Dean: We're always writing.

Ed: Always, that's part of our everyday [lives]. We'd record the songs we've written right now but I don't want to, we still have that one (points to the "Blender" CD). We'd want to promote that one first.

What can we expect from the new album?

Dean: Well, Ed's going to sing most of the songs. (Laughs)

Ed: Ross will play most of the guitars. Actually I think Will's going to play more keyboards… No, really, I'm serious with this! We're actually getting to the point where we're actually bored with our instruments, so Will's gonna play piano, I might play some bass.

Dean: The thing is, our drummer's even better than our bass player is. (Laughter) Shane's a great bass player.

Ed: And Will's a great percussionist.

Quit picking on Will just because he's not here. So what are your guilty pleasures?

Ross: I listen to Eminem.

Ed: Well with music, there's none. I listen to everything.

Dean: You gotta understand that we came from a really, really religious family, so any pleasure is guilty for us. (Laughs) Anytime I have sex it's like, "guilty!"

Ed: You have sex?

Dean: Um… at one point, I mean…

Did having a minister for a father make it difficult for you to get into rock?

Ed: Not at all.

Ross: It did, though. Everyone had a great atmosphere growing up, I didn't really have any angst, I'm not angry about that.

Dean: Parents have the best intentions for us.

Ross: Yeah, parents have the best intentions for us. But you know, I inch and stumble upon things and learn things along the way, so that's just 14, 15 years I went through.

If the band were in "Survivor," who would win?

Ed: I think Will would win, since he watches it. We're not making it up, he really does!

Who would be kicked out first?

Dean: Will.

Ed: I would say me, since I would wanna go home and not hang around.

Dean: We don't even know the mechanics of the game!

What's the song "Run" about?

Ed: Actually at the time I didn't find any inspiration in my music. Sometimes you like music, sometimes you don't, then you go back at that period. At that time I didn't hear anything on the radio that I liked, so I started listening to what I grew up on which was Elton, Beatles, U2. So it's sort of a tribute to that. I felt that music needed to go back to that time and find its basic elements and come up with a good song and all the artists who influenced me at that time.

Collective Soul's fifth album, "Blender," is now available under Warner Music

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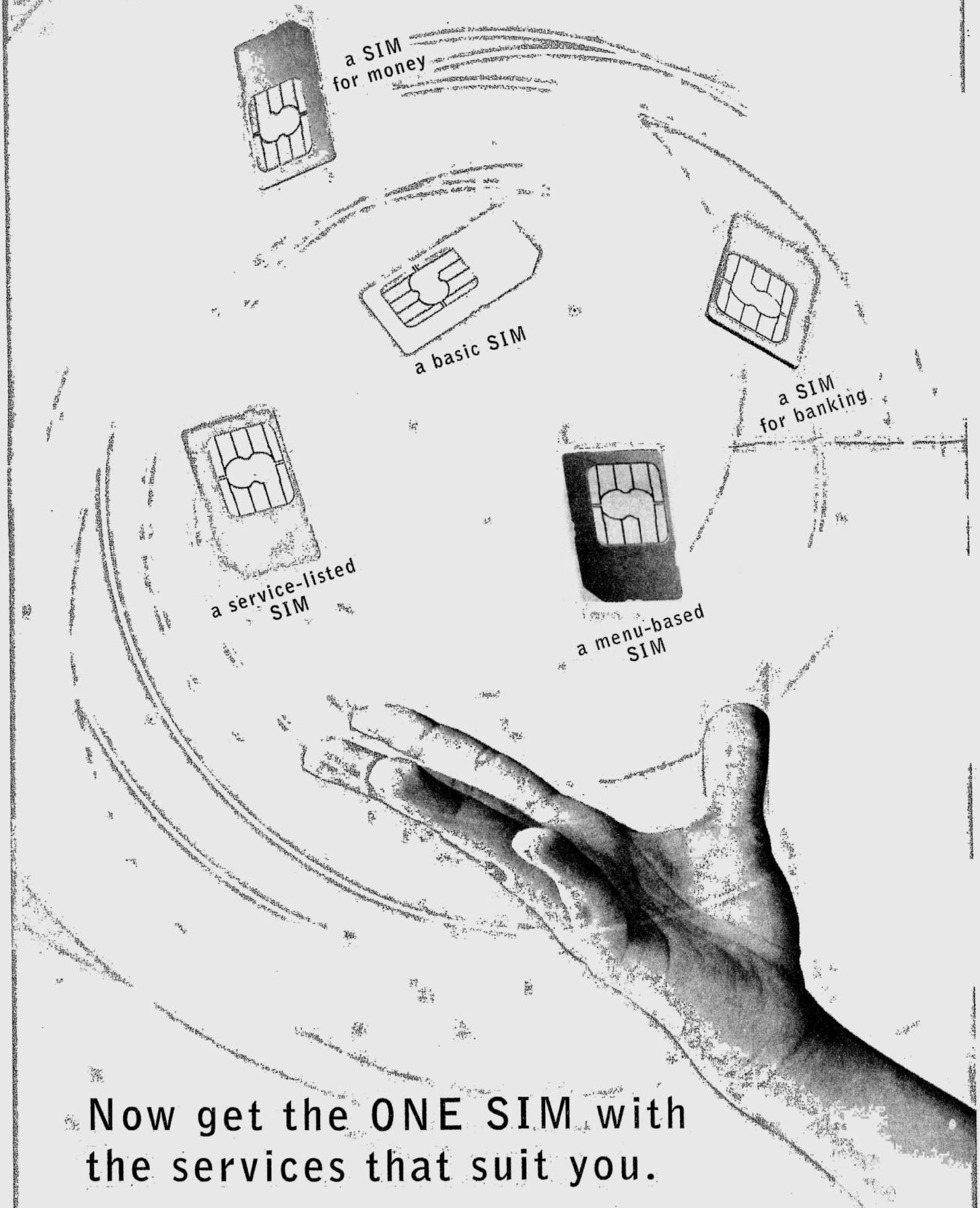
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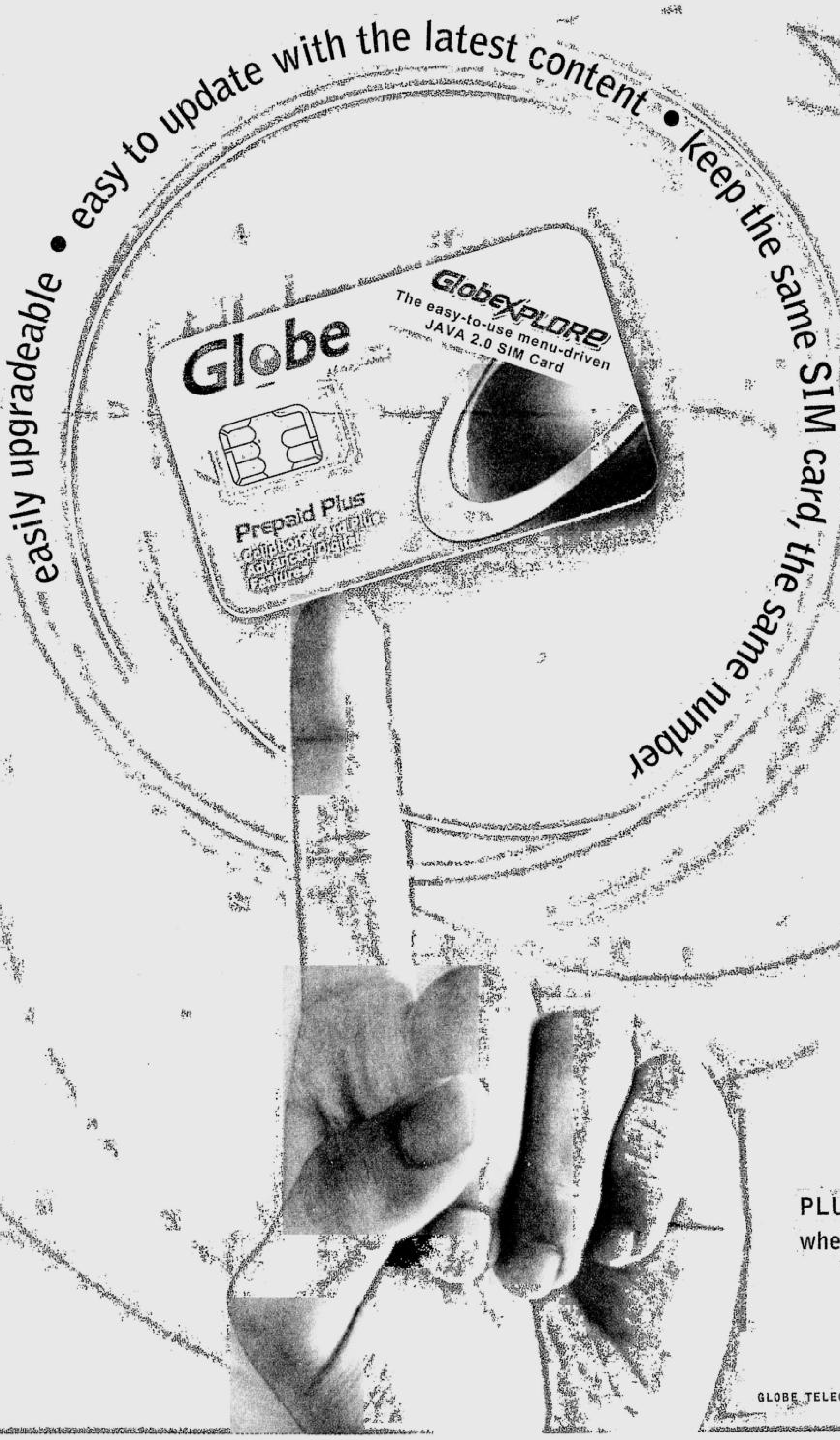
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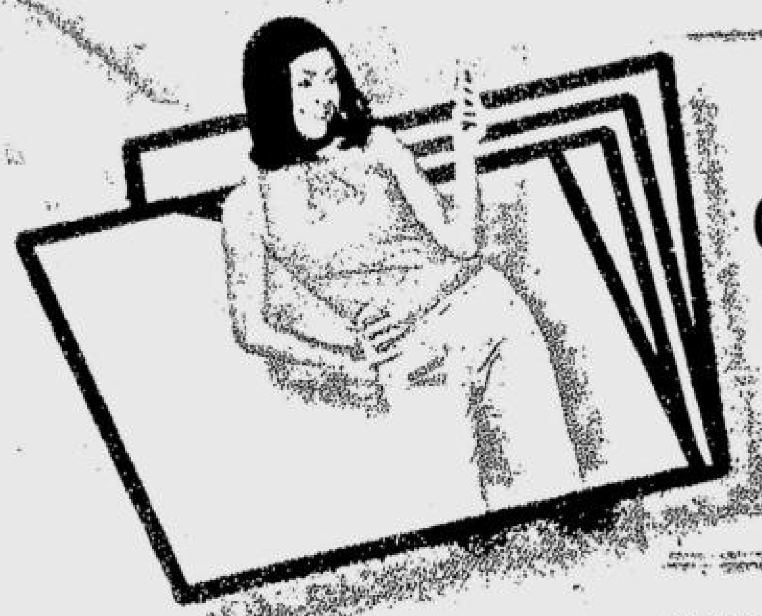

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De La Salle University GlobeXplore Campus Pack now available. University of the Philippines-DEEE GlobeXplore Campus Pack available by February 22. University of Asia and the Pacific GlobeXplore Campus Pack available by February 25. Ateneo de Manila University GlobeXplore Campus Pack coming soon.

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- Download the movie schedule of Gaisano Mall Cinema, JS Gaisano and Victoria Plaza
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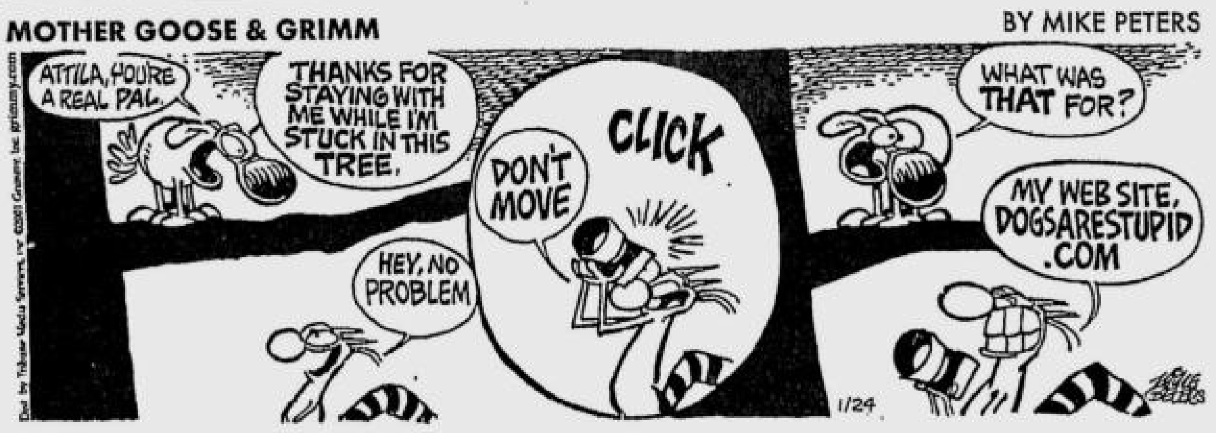
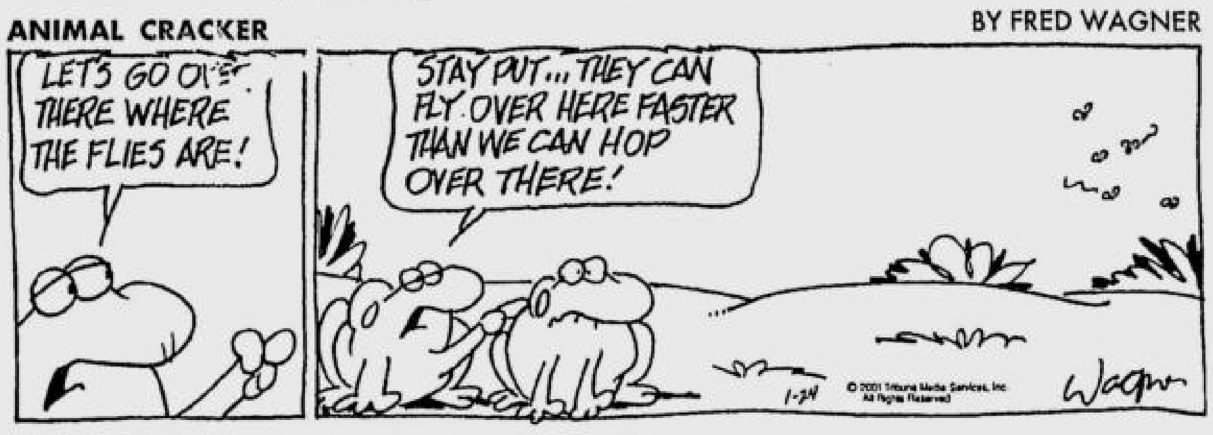
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


ATTILA, YOU'RE A REAL PAL.
THANKS FOR STAYING WITH ME WHILE I'M STUCK IN THIS TREE.
HEY, NO PROBLEM
DON'T MOVE
CLICK
WHAT WAS THAT FOR?
MY WEB SITE, DOGSARESTUPID.COM
1/24
Dist. by Tribune Media Services, Inc. ©2001 Grimmy, Inc. grimmy.com

ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


LET'S GO OVER THERE WHERE THE FLIES ARE!
STAY PUT... THEY CAN FLY OVER HERE FASTER THAN WE CAN HOP OVER THERE!
1-24
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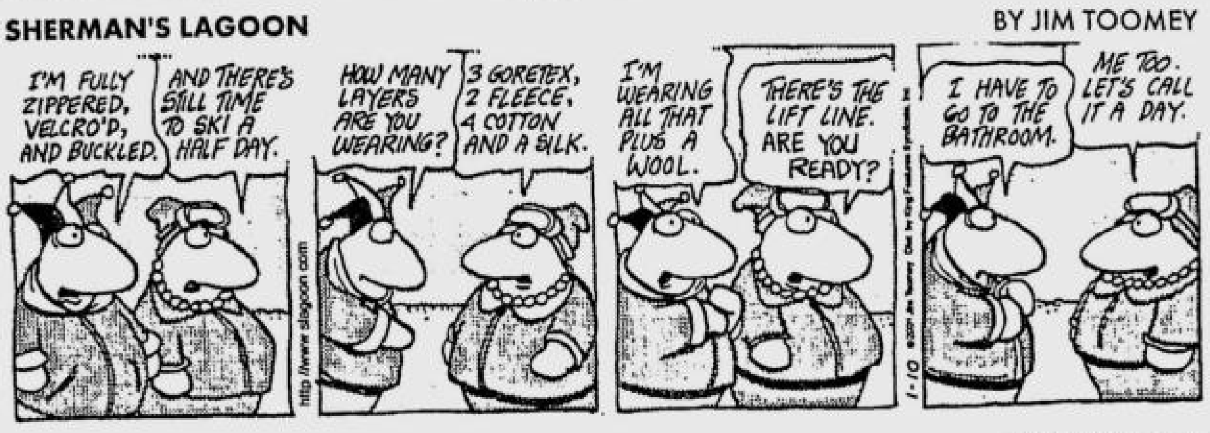
Wagner

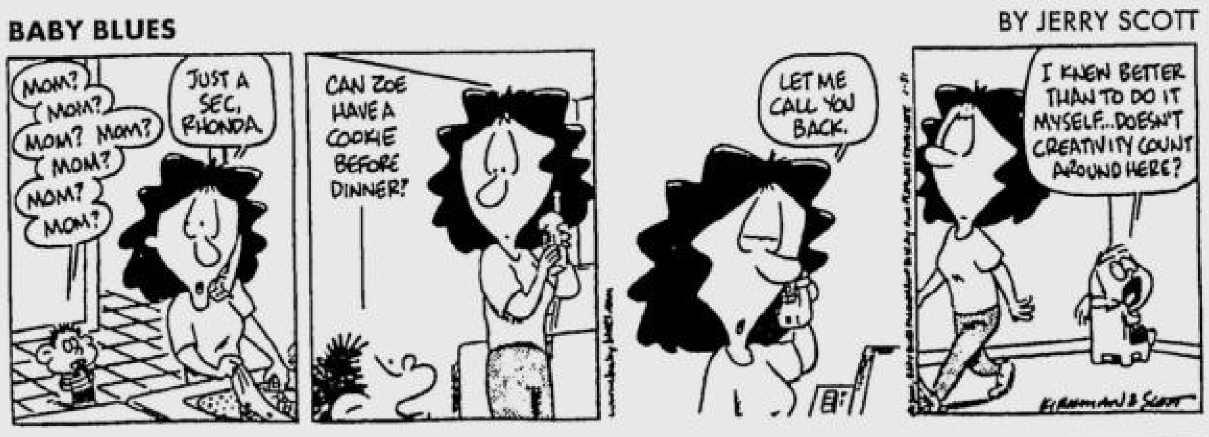
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


I'M FULLY ZIPPERED, VELCRO'D, AND BUCKLED.
AND THERE'S STILL TIME TO SKI A HALF DAY.
HOW MANY LAYERS ARE YOU WEARING?
3 GORETEX, 2 FLEECE, 4 COTTON AND A SILK.
I'M WEARING ALL THAT PLUS A WOOL.
THERE'S THE LIFT LINE. ARE YOU READY?
I HAVE TO GO TO THE BATHROOM.
ME TOO. LET'S CALL IT A DAY.
http://www.slagoon.com
1-10

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


MOM? MOM? MOM? MOM? MOM? MOM? MOM?
JUST A SEC, RHONDA.
CAN ZOE HAVE A COOKIE BEFORE DINNER?
LET ME CALL YOU BACK.
I KNEW BETTER THAN TO DO IT MYSELF... DOESN'T CREATIVITY COUNT AROUND HERE?
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Erma Bomback, Barbara Jordan, Rue McClanahan, Jill Eikenberry, Kelsey Grammer, Mary-Chapin Carpenter, William Baldwin, Jennifer Love Hewitt

Happy Birthday: This is a romantic and creative year for you. Enjoy the company of others. Your vision will enable you to add a unique quality to your work. Let your imagination flow and believe in your abilities. You know what you want to accomplish, so focus and don't stop until you reach your goals. Your numbers: 9, 12, 14, 30, 35, 38

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Underhandedness with co-workers is apparent. Do not reveal secret information to those you feel may be untrustworthy. Your home environment will be erratic if precautions aren't taken.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't let anyone push you beyond your limit. Haste makes waste, whereas a steady pace will pay off. Don't let colleagues stand in the way of your progress.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Your ability to communicate eloquently will aid you in capturing the heart of someone you've been interested in. Don't be afraid to stand up and voice your opinions at group meetings.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Lovers are likely to cause some upset today. Do your best to please, but refuse to give in to a shouting match. If you can't avoid the debate, do something that will make you feel better.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You can make or break your personal relationship today. Be careful not to show your temper when dealing with the boss. You may find that someone at work hasn't been trustworthy.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't become involved with co-workers or clients unless you want to risk ruining your professional reputation. Channel your energy into your career, and you will get ahead.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You need to concentrate on yourself. Get busy making those changes you've been promising yourself. Quit any bad habits that you've picked up and start fine-tuning your body.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Discord will surface on the home front if you have been secretive about your whereabouts. Residential changes will not run smoothly today.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Travel beckons you. Take off for a few days if you can afford the time. Try to find a remote place where you can do a bit of reflecting, and sort out any matters that may be confusing you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): This is not the time to invest, especially with someone else. You may find that someone you love needs help with private affairs. Try to help judiciously.

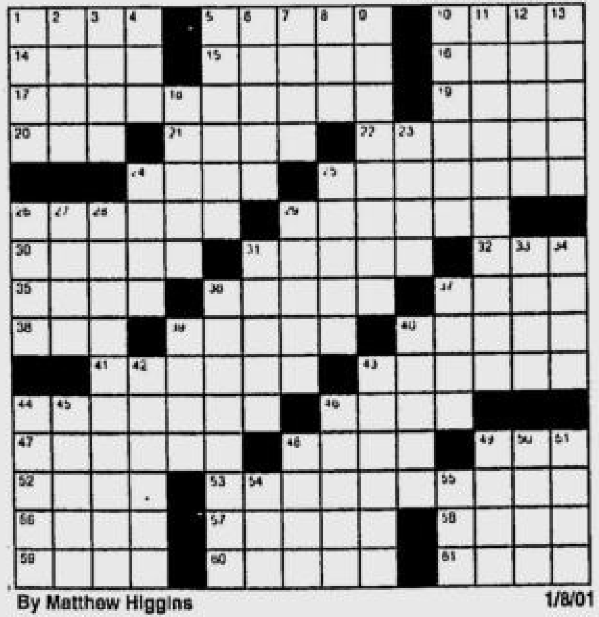
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't allow others to play with your emotions. Let them know how you feel, and what you expect out of partnerships. Take heed of the advice given by trusted friends. You will enjoy short trips to visit old friends.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Activities involving large institutions may be depressing. Try not to give in to the melodramas that surround you. Follow your intuition, which is strong.

Birthday Baby: You have an unusual style. You will always follow your heart and do things your own way. You are friendly, easygoing and a little dramatic.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Matthew Higgins
Concord, NH

1/8/01

ACROSS
1 Tip one's hat
5 Pungent
10 Open a little
14 Fit
15 Puppeteer Lewis
16 Krakow native
17 Former Buckeye boss
19 Rose or Seeger
20 Born in France
21 Long times
22 Harvested
24 Finchley floozy
25 Nabs
26 Cheapen
29 Blue shade
30 Native Alaskan
31 Sanctuary
32 Curve type
35 Kent rental
36 Ice-cream holders
37 Three in Munich
38 Old salt
39 Pleasure trip
40 Skin cream
41 Out of focus
43 Actress Shields
44 Long steps
46 Spring ball
47 Some Eurasian herbs
48 Supper or dinner
49 Gridlock
52 Saudi
53 One-time Irish inspirer
56 Nevada's second city
57 Quantity of perfume
58 Always
59 Matched groups
60 Descartes and Levesque
61 Tibetan priest

DOWN
1 First light
2 Bassoon's kin
3 Icefield
4 Nourished
5 Off the liner
6 Singsong mode of speaking
7 Beams
8 Fury
9 Sheds apparel
10 Horrify
11 Nittany Lions' leader
12 Modify
13 Marsh grasses
18 Leavening agent
23 Dash
24 Showing strain
25 Wish for excessively
26 Silly
27 Ms. Fitzgerald
28 One-time Crimson Tide chief
29 Shrewd
31 Noon and midnight, e.g.
33 Endeavor to obtain
34 Beget
36 Looks after
37 Adverse fate
39 Hardy hero
40 Fairy-tale toll collector
42 Dances low to the ground
43 Stoppers
44 Constellation components
45 Minimum crowd?
46 Pieces of pounds
48 Educator Horace
49 Programming language
50 Hey!
51 "__ Breckinridge"
54 Regret
55 Moray __

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

C	A	S	T	I	G	A	T	E	■	S	H	I	R	T
A	T	T	I	T	U	D	E	S	■	H	O	N	E	R
P	L	A	C	E	M	A	T	S	■	A	B	U	S	E
S	E	T	■	M	U	G	■	E	U	D	O	R	A	S
T	I	E	H	■	P	E	N	N	S	■	K	E	Y	S
O	S	S	I	E	■	S	E	C	E	D	E	■	■	■
N	U	M	B	E	R	■	D	E	F	I	N	E	R	S
E	R	A	■	R	E	D	■	S	U	V	■	M	E	N
S	E	N	T	I	N	E	L	■	L	A	Z	U	L	I
■	■	■	R	E	A	C	T	S	■	S	A	L	A	D
P	I	P	E	■	M	I	D	A	S	■	P	A	T	E
R	O	A	S	T	E	D	■	L	U	G	■	T	I	N
U	N	I	T	E	■	E	D	U	C	A	T	I	V	E
D	I	L	L	S	■	R	E	T	R	I	E	V	E	S
E	A	S	E	S	■	S	W	E	E	T	N	E	S	S

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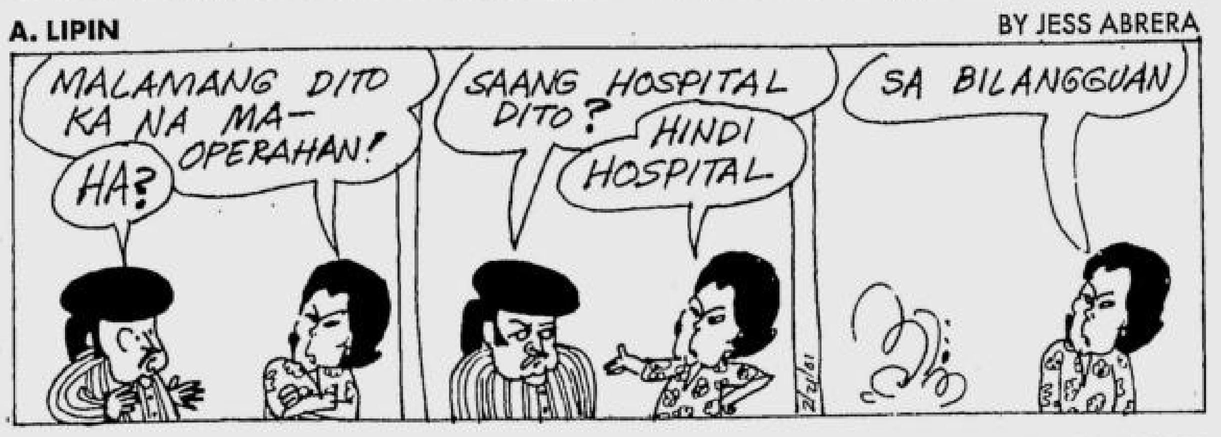
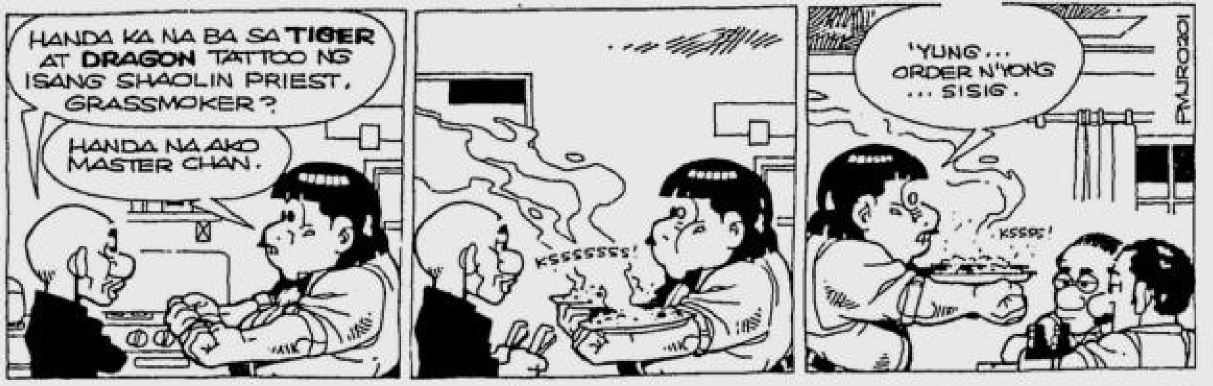
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


MALAMANG DITO KA NA MA-OPERAHAN!
HA?
SAANG HOSPITAL DITO?
HINDI HOSPITAL
SA BILANGGUAN
2/21/01

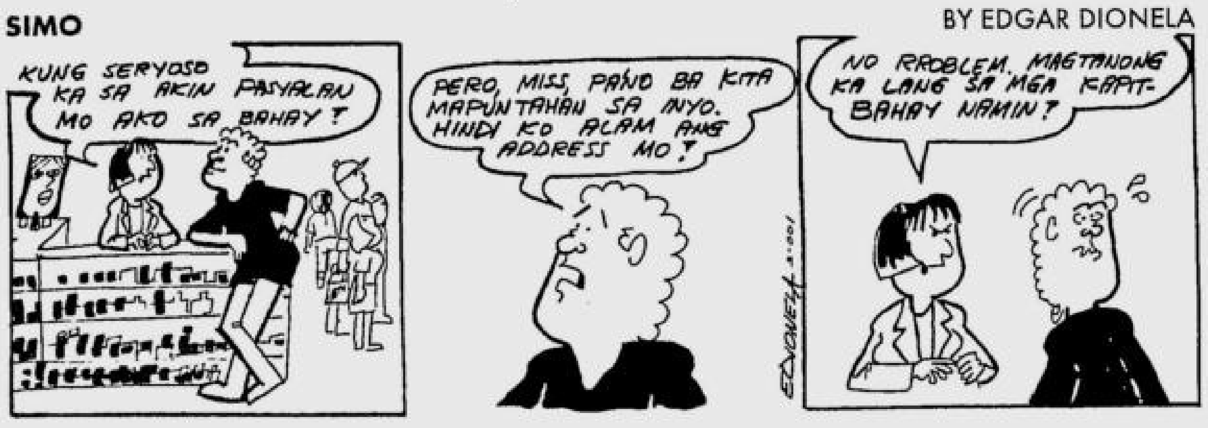
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


HANDA KA NA BA SA TIGER AT DRAGON TATTOO NG ISANG SHAOLIN PRIEST, GRASSMOKER?
HANDA NA AKO MASTER CHAN.
KSSSSSSS!
'YUNG... ORDER N'YONG ... SISIG.
KSSSS!
PMJR0201

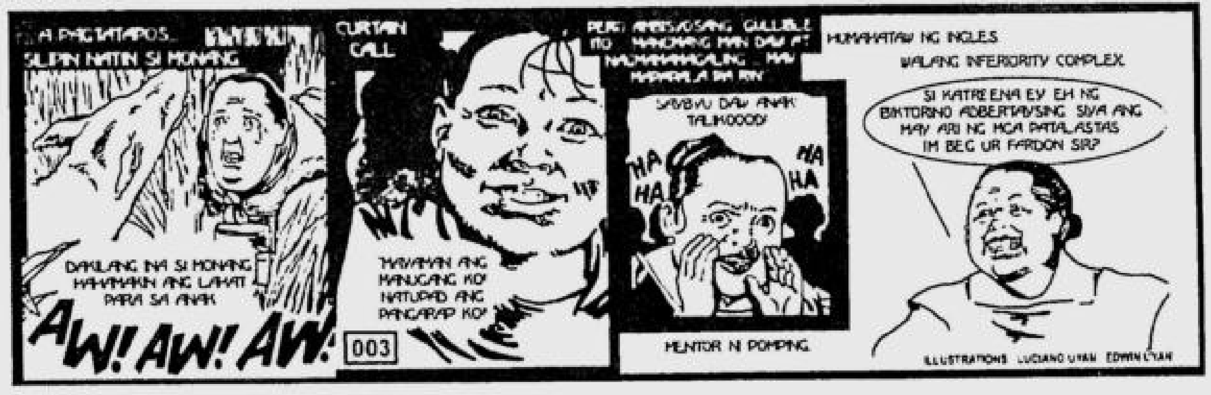
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


KUNG SERYOSO KA SA AKIN PASYALAN MO AKO SA BAHAY?
PERO, MISS, PAÑO BA KITA MAPUNTAHAN SA INYO. HINDI KO ALAM ANG ADDRESS MO?
NO PROBLEM. MAGTANONG KA LANG SA MGA KAPIT-BAHAY NAMIN?
EDIONELA

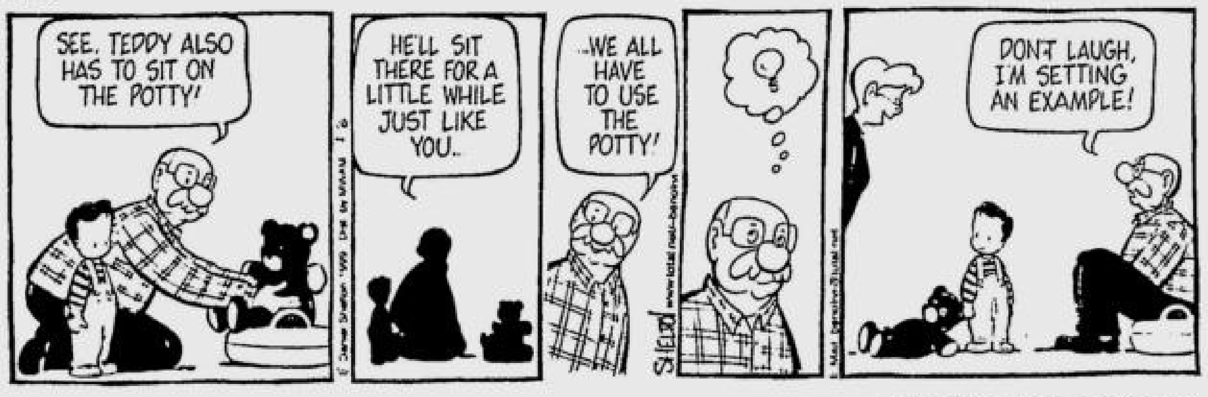
KATREENA

BY JOY CONIENDO


SILIPIN NATIN SI MONANG
DAKILANG INA SI MONANG HAHAMAKIN ANG LAHAT PARA SA ANAK
AW! AW! AW!
003
CURTAIN CALL
HAHAMAKIN ANG MANUGANG KO! NATUPAD ANG PANGARAP KO!
SAYBYU DAW ANAK TALIKOOOD!
HA HA HA HA
MENTOR NI POMPING
HUMAHATAW NG INGLES
WALANG INFERIORITY COMPLEX
SI KATREENA EY EH NG BIKTORINO ADBERTAYSING SIYA ANG MAY ARI NG MGA PATALASTAS IM BEG UR FARDON SIR?
ILLUSTRATIONS LUCIANO UYAN EDWIN UYAN

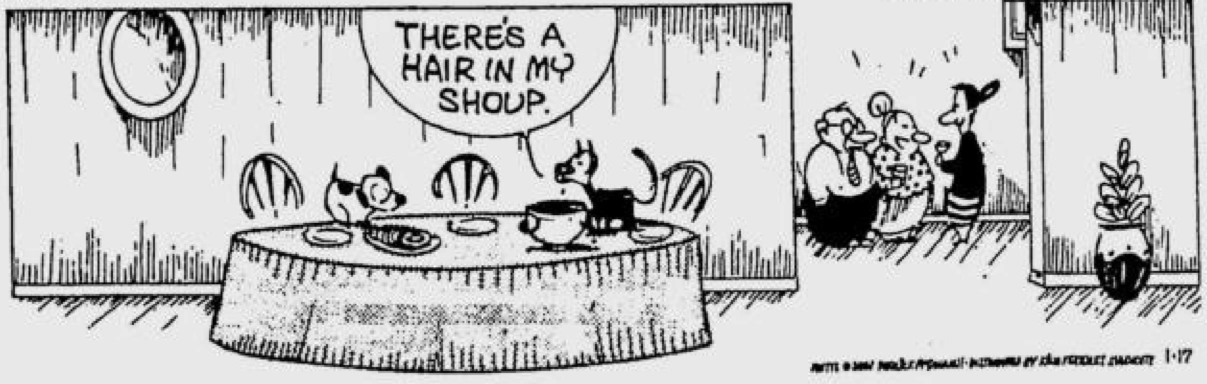
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


SEE, TEDDY ALSO HAS TO SIT ON THE POTTY!
HE'LL SIT THERE FOR A LITTLE WHILE JUST LIKE YOU..
..WE ALL HAVE TO USE THE POTTY!
?
DON'T LAUGH, I'M SETTING AN EXAMPLE!
SHELTON

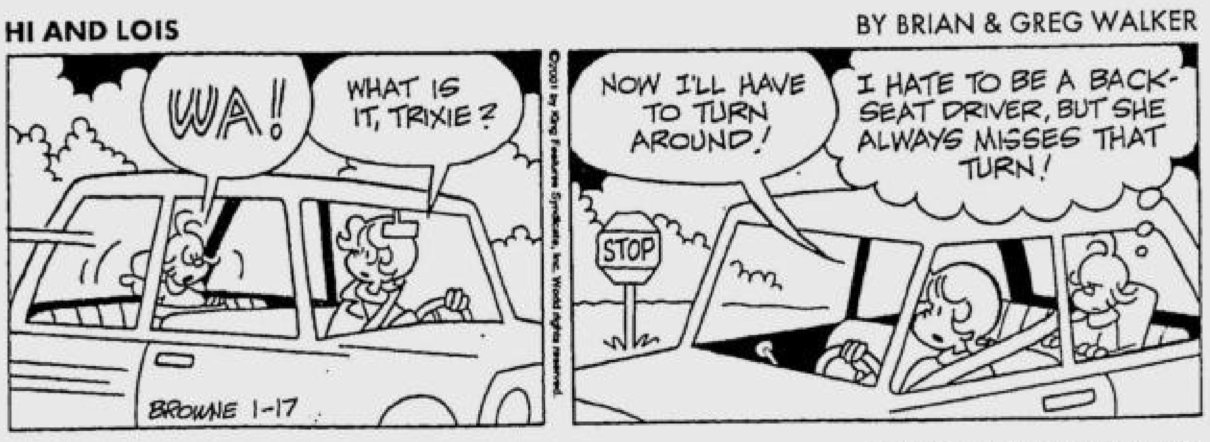
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


THERE'S A HAIR IN MY SHOUP.
1-17

HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


WA!
WHAT IS IT, TRIXIE?
BROWNE 1-17
NOW I'LL HAVE TO TURN AROUND!
I HATE TO BE A BACK-SEAT DRIVER, BUT SHE ALWAYS MISSES THAT TURN!
STOP
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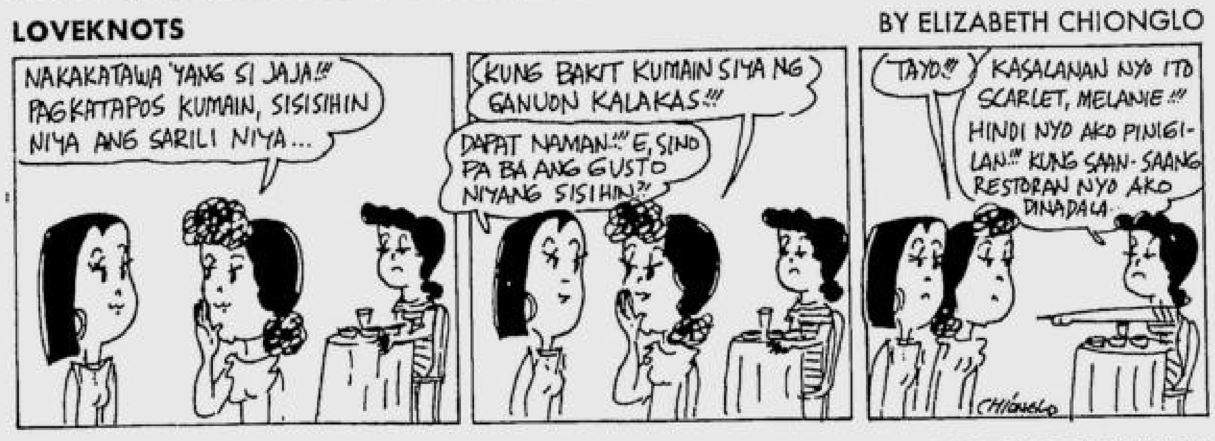
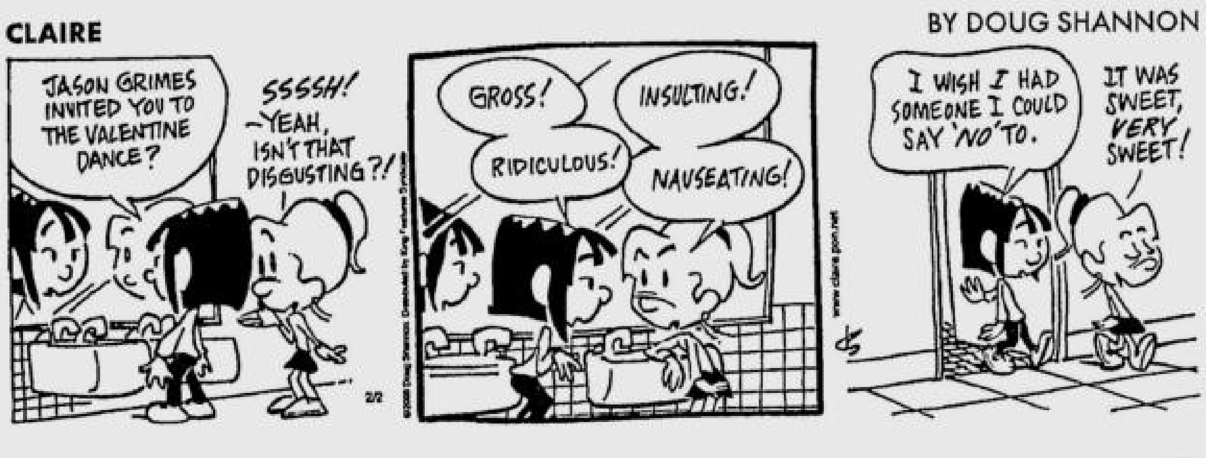
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


NAKAKATAWA 'YANG SI JAJA!!! PAGKATAPOS KUMAIN, SISISIHIN NIYA ANG SARILI NIYA...
KUNG BAKIT KUMAIN SIYA NG GANUON KALAKAS!!!
DAPAT NAMAN!!! E, SINO PA BA ANG GUSTO NIYANG SISIHIN?!
"TAYO!!"
KASALANAN NYO ITO SCARLET, MELANIE!!! HINDI NYO AKO PINIGILAN!!! KUNG SAAN-SAANG RESTORAN NYO AKO DINADALA...
CHIONGLO

CLAIRE

BY DOUG SHANNON


JASON GRIMES INVITED YOU TO THE VALENTINE DANCE?
SSSSH! —YEAH, ISN'T THAT DISGUSTING?!
GROSS!
INSULTING!
RIDICULOUS!
NAUSEATING!
I WISH I HAD SOMEONE I COULD SAY 'NO' TO.
IT WAS SWEET, VERY SWEET!
2/2
www.claire.pon.net

Almost famous

AIA de Leon, Tim Cacho, Arvin Gatmaitan and Zach Lucero

KYLA

THERE'S no doubt about it—Filipinos have lots of talent. Face it—everywhere you go, someone's belting out the latest Top 40 song, or perfecting those 'N Sync dance steps while humming to "Bye, Bye, Bye." You don't even need to go farther than your backyard—10 to 1, your *yaya* loves to sing along to M2M, too.

Want more proof? Check out these three recently signed acts we're sure will heat up radio stations and countdowns (one of them already did!).

Kyla

It's not easy being 20 and in the business. But this chick seems to be pulling it well. Her video for her single, "Hanggang Ngayon," has been getting MTV airplay. What makes this babe different from the rest? Try shedding the Britney-pop style and putting on some serious R&B flavor and pounding onto swoon-worthy ballads. While others pull off their performances with just looks and sex appeal, this girl has got both—and talent. Her album (released under OctoArts EMI/ Virgin Music) shows proof of her stellar voice and rhythm. Having won in the talent show "Tanghalan ng Kampeon" back in 1993 (she stayed on for six straight weeks), Kyla—real name Melanie Hernandez Calumpad—was chosen by GMA for the afternoon variety show "That's Entertainment." After being part of the Wednesday group for two years, the show was axed. That didn't stop Kyla from pursuing her love for music. In 1995, she represented the Philippines in the 4th Yamaha Music Quest in Tokyo, Japan.

After joining a show band, Kyla won third prize in the 1997 Metropop Young Singers' Competition, and even entered the same contest again in 2000. Word got around before Virgin jumped at the chance. Kyla was signed up as one of their first artists, and with the help of great producers, delivered the album "Way to Your Heart." Containing 10 tracks entwined with R&B and ballads, Kyla's ready to let the world hear her music—and her singing voice.

Imago

"When people see us, they think we're like The Corrs, since we have a violinist," Aia de Leon, vocalist and guitarist of Imago says. What people need to do is listen to the music…very different from possibly any band out there. Imago, composed of Aia, Tim Cacho on guitars, Arvin Gatmaitan on bass, and Zach Lucero on drums, combines possibly every genre of music out there into their music. Don't think it comes out like a badly tossed Caesar salad—amid clashing ideas, the band gets their sound together to produce a tight melody and rockin' song.

Just like any band, Imago went through lineup changes before settling with the "final" group (violinist Michelle Pritchard had to say buh-bye due to other commitments). That didn't stop the band from writing songs, recording demos and putting together an independent album.

"[A friend] took interest in the album, and started letting record companies hear it. He really took a chance on us," Aia says. The lucky record company? Viva Records, who picked up on the band's unique sound.

While their debut album (which they're quick to point out is a year old since they wrote and recorded their indie), "Crackerspank," has yet to be released late next month, their single, "Alay," has already been getting major airplay even last year on NU 107.5. They're also quick to dish out the songs they like on the album.

"Definitely 'Rain Song,'" Aia shares. "It's a happy song…but not like 'Sesame Street' happy. It's all just a bunch of jumbled words…like 'look away, see it coming.' Like a chant that's not a chant…" Turns out music guru Raimund Marasigan (Eraserheads drummer and Sandwich guitarist) remixed the song, adding some Japanese funk beats.

"Also, the song 'Otherwise,' that says we're not perfect people," she continues. "When we complain about people, we don't realize we're also like that."

It's obvious Imago's music (Imago being Latin for "image") has not only a different sound, but inspirational lyrics to boot, which everyone can relate to. "Pretty Me" is a song about teenagers who succumb to the pitfalls of commercialism. "I feel bad for those teens who think they have to use all these products just to look good and feel accepted," says Aia. "Beauty doesn't come from a bottle of whitening cream."

So how did they come up with the name "Crackerspank" for their album? After a bit of storytelling on how they played with the words, it all came down to one thing: compromise. "We didn't want to call it crackerspanked, it sounds like a sausage," Zach puts in.

3rd Angle

Sick of the usual toe-tapping one-hit wonder

ALMOST/ P.D8

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SO YOU WANNA BE IN A BAND?

Essential things wannabe musicians should keep in mind

THINK you can play the guitar better than Wes Borland? How about pound on the piano and sing just as good as Jewel? If being a musician or part of a band is your kind of thing, well, you're not alone. Lots of people have been holed up in their bedrooms or garages, convinced that they're the next Eraserheads. You know, get signed, be famous, rake in lots of money. But if you're not careful, you're most likely to be erased than make your mark in the music scene.

So before picking up those drum sticks and making like Tre Cool, take some time out to read these tips straight from people who are in-the-know when it comes to bands and music. Francis Reyes, guitarist of the phenomenal group The Dawn (proof that he's got lots of musical experience), also hosts a show on NU 107.5 called "In the Raw," which showcases (you guessed it) unsigned bands who want to be heard. Also, OctoArts/Virgin Records local label manager Francis Guevarra dishes out some juice on what record companies are looking for. It doesn't hurt that he was once a member of True Faith, too!

- **Get your stuff together.**

Okay, think about this: What kind of music do you really want to play? If you're flying solo, you got that covered—but being in a band, you have to compromise. It wouldn't really sound right if your guitarist played jazz and your drummer's got an AC/DC song stuck in his head. Find a sound and stick with it. "You must also have the ability to compromise with other members of the band, and reach a certain agreement," Guevarra says.

- **Be innovative.**

"Another thing a band has to keep in mind is innovation," Guevarra says. "We live in a world where technology development is so fast, and if you couldn't keep up, you'll most likely be left behind." Case in point: Slapshock. So many people put their money on the table that their second album won't sell. But because of creativity and their rolling with the times (i.e. the cool new sounds on their second album), their music isn't the same ol' tunes as before.

- **Rehearse, rehearse, rehearse.**

When Wolfgang initially performed onstage, they didn't come up with that perfect sound right away. To achieve that perfection, they practice, practice, practice. Must we elaborate that practice makes perfect? Picture this: If you wouldn't practice your songs then get booked for a local gig, you'd sound like a bunch of chickens on the loose. Wow, that would really impress people! Get to know your instruments more, and use whatever free time you have to jam with your bandmates. Believe it or not, lots of bands now practice from noontime to midnight—and they don't stop until they get their sound right.

- **Stay in school.**

"Don't take school for granted, stay grounded," Reyes says. "Educate yourself." Ever wonder why some bands end up suing label managers about contract stuff? Sometimes, the band's too hyped about getting signed that they don't even read what the contract is all about. Be street-smart, understand things and know what you're getting into. "Don't expect to make a living out of it," Reyes adds. Dropping out of school and giving your all to a band doesn't mean you'd make it big. And just because you're in school doesn't mean you couldn't play. Check out bands that still hit the books, like Ciudad and Chico Science. Fatal Posporos was still in school when they formed the band and rocked clubs and bars.

- **Learn to save money.**

You've learned about this in Economics 10—investment is key. Save money for recording good demos, buying instruments and renting equipment if you're really serious about forming a band. "It's important to have your own instruments," Reyes says. And don't think that just because your buddy's got major recording equipment and full-on amps, you can already splurge on a couple of PlayStation games. Owning a guitar means buying extra strings, etc.

- **Make people aware you exist.**

"Establish a fan base," Guevarra advises. "In order for word to get around, you've got to have supporters and people who know you play good." Even though your sister and her friends are the only people who know you can funk up that bass, it's amazing how word gets around. "I found Slapshock when [a friend] told me about them. So I called this other friend of mine and it turns out he knows where they play a lot," Guevarra says. Which leads to…

- **Look for possible places where you can play your music.**

People will not go up to you and ask you to play in their bars (unless your dad's the owner). Look around, ask around—many new bars and the like are always on the look-out for fresh acts. Ask school organizations, they put up a lot of events that need some good tunes. Join competitions—you'll never know who's in the audience looking for potential artists. Submit demo tapes to record companies like OctoArts/Virgin who encourage new musicians to do so. Throw your stuff at radio stations—yes, record company people listen to the radio, too, duh.

- **Write your own music.**

No one wants to listen to your cover songs forever (If you want to be a showband, skip this part). You have to be creative. You have to come up with your own material. Remember, people always look for something new, something fresh, something original. "It's a survival of the fittest" sort of thing. "There was this really good band who played live. They did cover songs, but they played really, really well. The problem was, their original material wasn't good enough," says Guevarra.

- **Make sure your demos are in tune.**

"Demos don't have to be that good. You can tell by the rhythm and the melody if the song is good," Reyes points out. "[Even though] the demos aren't in tune, I play them anyway." Demos are exactly what they are…your first cut, your first record. First meaning it doesn't have to sound like a topnotch producer came in and did the magic for you. Make sure they're clear, you can hear the melody and the lyrics. And luckily, with the magic of today's technology, you can master demos on computers and the like.

- **Be professional.**

Discipline, commitment, passion. Do you think bands like Mojofly would still be around today if they never showed up on time for rehearsals and gigs? Sure, being in a band is fun since you get to make your own music. But there's a lot of hard work involved. When you submit demos, submit it along with a resumé ("Make sure it includes only the important information, like the member's names…not your parents'," Reyes adds) and photo. If someone asks you to come play for them, make sure your instruments are in tune, you know the song by heart and you're there on time. Nothing pisses people off more than musicians who are tardy, not serious about their work and are egoistic.

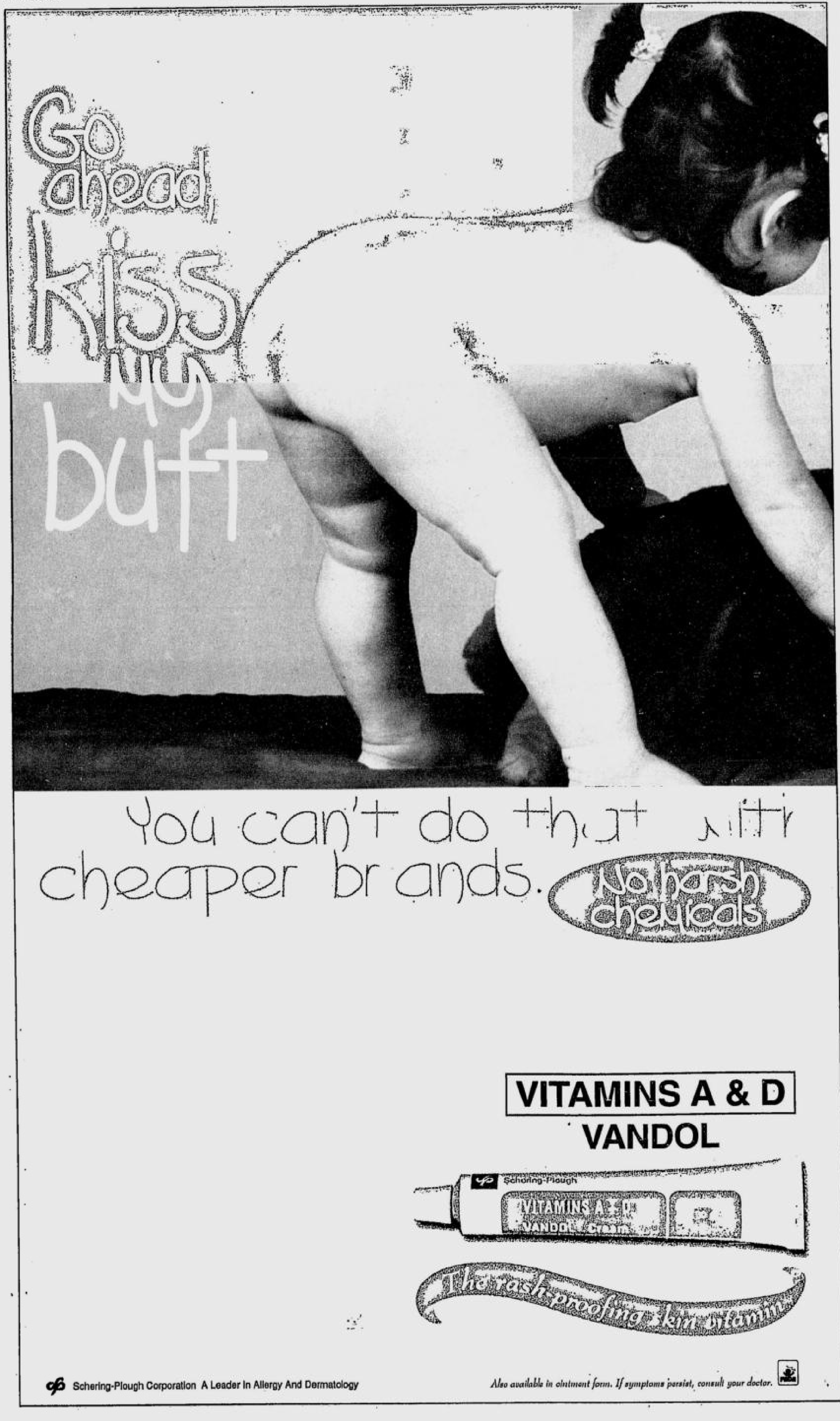
- **Don't be an airhead.**

"Lose the ego," says Guevarra. "At first you'll be humble, but you tend to forget that you're only human and this could happen to anyone." Remember the movie "That Thing You Do!"? You have to keep in mind that you're just one of the many struggling bands who might have gotten lucky, or may be slightly better than the other band…but that doesn't mean you can make like Kid Rock and go around saying you're the bomb. "Don't let all those praises get to your head," Reyes cautions. Do we even have to point out some of the bands broke up because of inflated egos?

Maui V. Reyes

"In the Raw" airs 6-8 p.m. on dwNU 107.5, where unsigned bands can be heard. To make the world hear those demos you made, send 'em over to "In the Raw," 2/F, Strata 2000 Building, Ortigas Center, Pasig.

Girl bands are encouraged to join Meg Magazine's "Summer Bandemonium," a battle of the [amateur] bands for girls, which will be held in March. Call Kit or Shao at 631-2859, local 18.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3RD Angle—Rafi, Skye and Gen

Almost famous

(From page D7)

girl bands? Throw that "Girl Thing" CD aside and switch to 3rd Angle's "Pure Harmony" CD, a perfect fusion of pop, R&B and rap.

Three Cebuanas with spunk. It all started with Skye, who has been dancing for nine years, got lessons from Ryan Cayabyab, Academy One and the Center for Pop Music. Moving back to Cebu, Skye was tagged "the new girl" and won friends through her talent in dancing and singing. That's where she met Rafi.

An alto who's been singing since she was 3 years old, Rafi was part of the school choir who performed with Skye around the local circuit in Cebu. What they needed was a third member… after all, two's not that much fun when you can have three. Gen scored the third slot—being a soprano and part of her high school choir, Gen fit in what would be the power of three. One of Gen's credits was being given a scholarship to sing in her college dramatics club, touring the US.

"Pure Harmony" contains 10 tracks, each individually laced with R&B, pop, and yes—rap! The single "Again and Again" topped the RX 93.1 charts, proof of their staying power in the rap-rock-Pinoy dominated scene. With some tracks written by the band, and co-produced by Mojofly's Ricci Gurango, 3rd Angle's album just might change Pinoy R&B!

Maui V. Reyes

Check out Imago on Feb. 23 at the UP Bahay ng Alumni, Feb. 28 at Freedom Bar (9 p.m.) and March 10 at the Cuneta Astrodome).

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2001 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER E1

be young • be you

2BU STYLE

...sions ls_2bu@inquirer.com.ph

(Story on page E2)

The science of things

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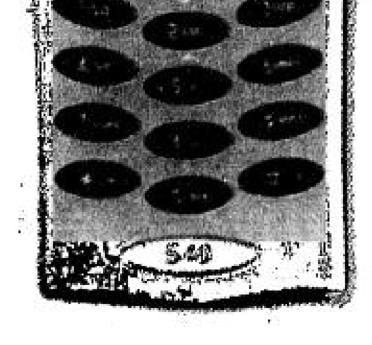

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The science of things

BY MAUI V. REYES
2bu! Correspondent

I CAN'T even count how many times I've told myself never to interview another rap/rock band. Friends have started telling me I'm biased when I praise rock bands. (Ooh, I'm so sorry, you said you wanted Westlife?)

So when I walked into that infirmary-turned-backstage area at Xavier, I expected the same quiet, passive, "gee, I'm the 'leader' of the group so I guess I have to talk" band. Karma beat me right then and there—six energetic, loud and definitely talkative musicians were what I got. Otherwise known as Chico Science, the six musicians, all crammed in one bed, started gabbing like they had done this before. Their manager was like a seventh member of the group, joining in.

Their story goes back to second-year high school when they decided to start a band. Vocalist Miguel Chavez was even in a band then, covering songs for 311 and playing bass. Before going through numerous lineups, Chico Science was called Chiznit. When they hit fourth year, they decided to take the whole "band thing" seriously. With Miguel on vocals, Carlos Calderon on bass, Joel Salvador on drums and Mong Alcaraz on guitars, Chiznit won first place in the Ateneo High Battle of the Bands.

Ditching the name Chiznit and picking up Chico Science was the first step to many changes. Members would come and go (Mong even opted out at one point) until they found the right sound—ultimately ending up with the band, plus Sonny Baquisal on guitars and Yug Esquivias on drums. Playing at places like Club Dredd (where they witnessed the early beginnings of Slapshock, minus Jamir) and Rockmore gave the band the rush of energy—the energy they need to go to the studio, produce an album and perform more shows.

Where did the name Chico Science come from?

Miguel: Okay, *eto na yung totoo ha!*

Mong: The truth is, there's this Chico Science person… Francisco something… *basta* Brazilian *siya. Sa* Soulfly CD *nandoon si* Chico Science. So now, upon research, it turns out that he was this musician… *kung ano si* Francis M *dito, ganon din siya doon.* He was into techno, rap and all that kind of stuff. Chico Science experimented a lot with music and died in a car accident. Jamir (vocalist of Slapshock), *sabi kasi,* Mad Scientist *na lang pangalan namin.* But it doesn't have that oomph to it.

Miguel: So we're not denying we didn't see that name in a Soulfly CD, okay?

Mong: We were careful also because we thought there was already a band out there called Chico Science.

Calde: And we changed our name before. It was supposed to be called Chiznit.

Mong: *Pero mahirap ma*-pronounce.

Have you always been into this kind of music?

Mong: *Siyempre lahat ng* music *pinapasukan, di ba?*

Miguel: When you're in high school that's when your musical taste develops. That's when I heard Deftones, Korn… the usual.

Calde: When Miguel came from the States, *may mga dala siyang mga* CDs so *parang,* "Hey, *bago yan!*"

Mong: *Pasalubong.*

So you think there are too many hip-hop metal bands out there?

Miguel: Seriously, I don't like that term. Many people tend to be close-minded about this genre. They see people in baggy jeans and they go, "Rap rock *'yan!" Iba-iba naman 'yung mga ginagawa namin eh.* We try to incorporate different kinds of music we enjoy like reggae. Joel likes country. Sonny, *sa* chicks. (Laughter)

Mong: Let's admit it, Korn started that revolution, even though many people came before them. Their [producer] was the one who said everybody's starting to sound the same. And now he's producing bands [under that genre].

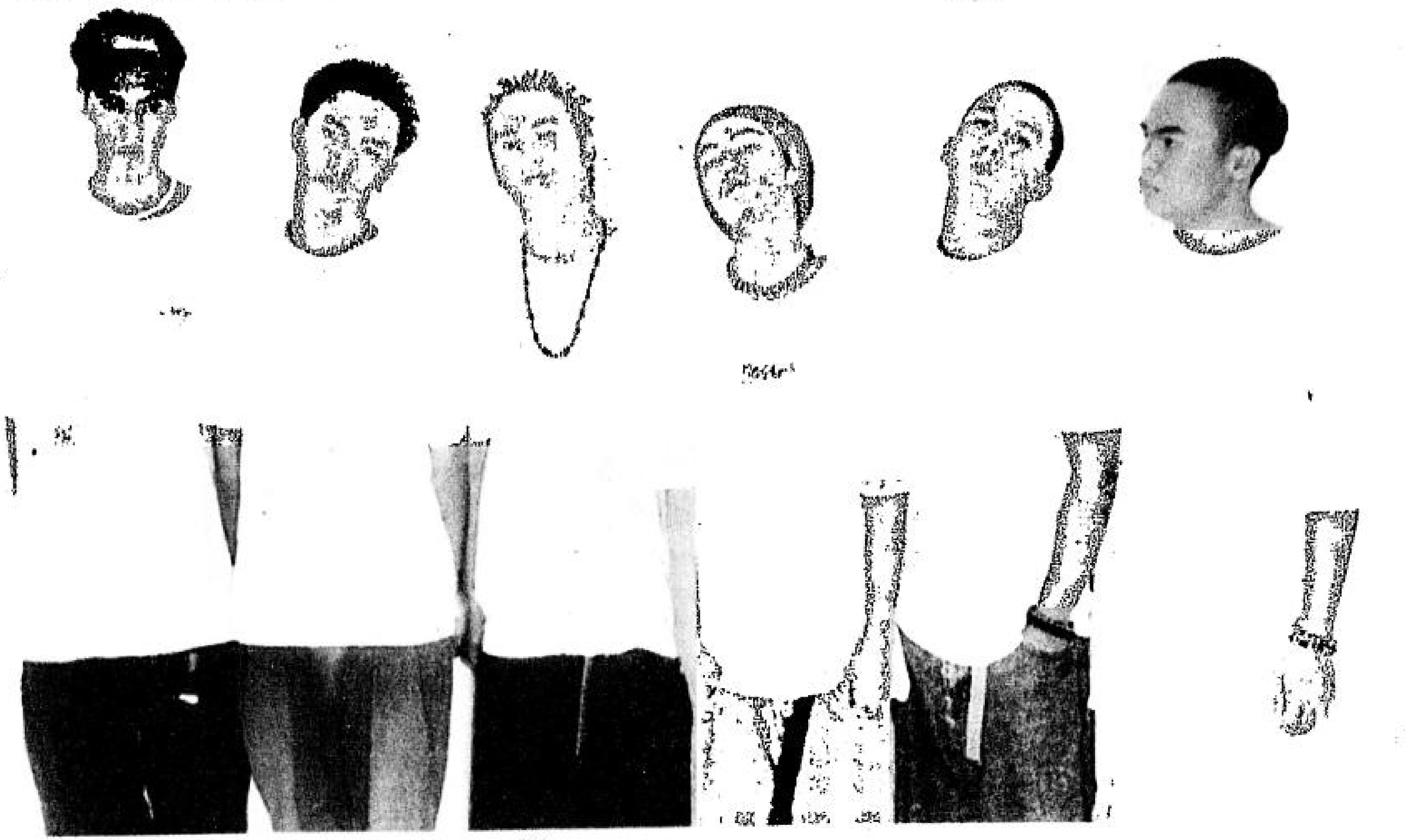
Miguel: I think it's a healthy scene. Bands will strive more. It's with the people… once they hear a band like this, they'll label them as Korn and Limp Bizkit.

Mong: *Kahit naman dati nung* Nirvana *may sigaw ha!*

Calde: *Oo nga naman!*

So what sets you apart from the other bands then?

Mong: For example, Slapshock. They're into rap since that's their influence. Then Cheese, they're into tribal reggae stuff. Then Greyhoundz, they're into rap, more technical, progressive.


CHICO Science—Sonny, Joel, Mong, Miguel, Calde and Yug

Joel: We're not claiming we're this style. We're just trying to write good songs that are tasty.

Calde: There's a sense of support. There's an extra drummer. Sometimes it's bad also. *Sayang sa gasolina, eh.*

Mong: *Tapos ang bigat-bigat ng* drums, *ayaw magbuhat.*

Joel: And the execution. Other bands have different ways of performing. *Siguro* from there *lalabas ang* identity *namin.* Performing makes people enjoy music.

Mong: And whoever's listening is the one who can set us apart.

Who came up with the name "Revenge of the Giant Robot"?

Miguel: Our webmaster, Jason Tablante, has this book on websites, and we saw this "revenge of the goldfish." But before that we wanted to use "Showdown in Little Tokyo," but apparently we can't use it because of copyright stuff. (Sticks his tongue out) It's a movie already. So we thought of that "revenge of the goldfish," *pero hindi naman kami mahilig sa* goldfish. *Eh may* robot *kami sa banda.* Um, Sonny has a deeper meaning for that. (Everyone looks at Sonny)

Sonny: Huh? Well, *sa akin, alam mo nung maraming mga* artists, *at mga nasa taas… eh kami nasa baba lang kami, tapos dahil lang nasa taas sila, parang, "nandyan lang kayo sa baba."* So *nandito kami, kaya din namin* to prove that we can also do it. *Kahit na malaki kaya, mga* robot *kayo,* technological *kayo… kaya din namin.*

How was recording?

Miguel: *Mahirap. Akala mo kakanta ka lang,* but then you have to sing over and over again. But it was really fun and educational. We were pretty nervous.

Mong: And you have other people around you. When we're doing demos, it's just us.

Sonny: You're just a box and the producer punches holes so *mapapalawak 'yung* music *mo.* They're experienced already.

Did you do anything to achieve that sound, or did you just leave it to the producer?

All: No.

Calde: Actually, it was like we go home at 4 a.m. We start recording at 9 p.m. then we go to Mong's place where we practice again and again.

Mong: For example, the guitar sound took us six hours since we had to change amps and stuff.

What was your best gig ever?

Miguel: Ateneo with Wolfgang.

Mong: *Sa* Music Museum. Greyhoundz didn't play so we played. Or was that Cheese?

Calde: *Lahat sila tumugtog* but we opened for that.

Miguel: And we played like, two songs? Ah… Enchanted Kingdom.

Mong: Enchanted! *Kasi ang saya eh!* The energy was just great and you could tell the people were enjoying it.

Your dream gig would be… ?

Miguel: Ozzfest! Any gig as long as it's with the Deftones.

Calde: *Hindi,* Deftones opening for us! (Laughter)

What other stuff do you do aside from playing for the band?

Calde: Um, I just took a test a while back…

Miguel: PlayStation.

Mong: I skateboard, when I have the time.

Miguel: Sleep. The best.

> Chico Science is not your ordinary hip-hop band. For one, it's no pushover

Joey: Girlfriends? (Laughter)

Miguel: Sonny's taken. (Everyone picks on Sonny)

Calde: Counterstrike with Yug.

Mong: Napster. We're all music freaks.

Who would you want to collaborate with, if ever?

All: Deftones!

Mong: Pinikpikan.

Sonny: Yeah, and Cynthia Alexander.

Mong: I'm a fan of 'N Sync.

Joey: First Degree… techno.

Miguel: Tom Jones. (Everyone goes silent for a few seconds) *Hindi!* (Laughter) Weezer. Um, Ciudad. (Laughter)

What band would you sue if they played your songs?

Sonny: Moffatts. (Laughter)

Miguel: But that would be flattering, and funny. I'd like to see the Spice Girls sing "Infect." (Laughter)

If you had a pearl shake stand, what would you name it?

Yug: Um… (Whispers) Drink My Balls. (Laughter)

Calde: Suck My Balls. Why? It's *sago, di ba?!*

Miguel: Cold Balls. (Laughter) *Hindi! Ako,* Swiftly. (Laughter) *Akin yon ha!*

Mong: *Tapos nung* logo *ng* Swift!

What are your ringtones right now?

Miguel: Wait, listen. (Plays "Under the Sea")

Yug: (Plays "The One You Love" and Calde does a dance)

Where in the world would you want to be stranded in?

Mong: Siberia.

Miguel: Nude beach.

But you're the only ones there. (Laughter)

Miguel: Eeew…*'wag na* nude beach *kung kami-kami lang!* Um… Disneyland!

Who will be the first to have a solo career?

Mong: Sonny.

Yug: *Marami kasing* chicks! (Laughter) No… maybe Mong.

Okay that's it.

Miguel: That's it? No "message to the fans"? (Laughter)

Okay fine! Do you have any message to people who want to start bands?

Miguel: Um… *sige!* Go for it!

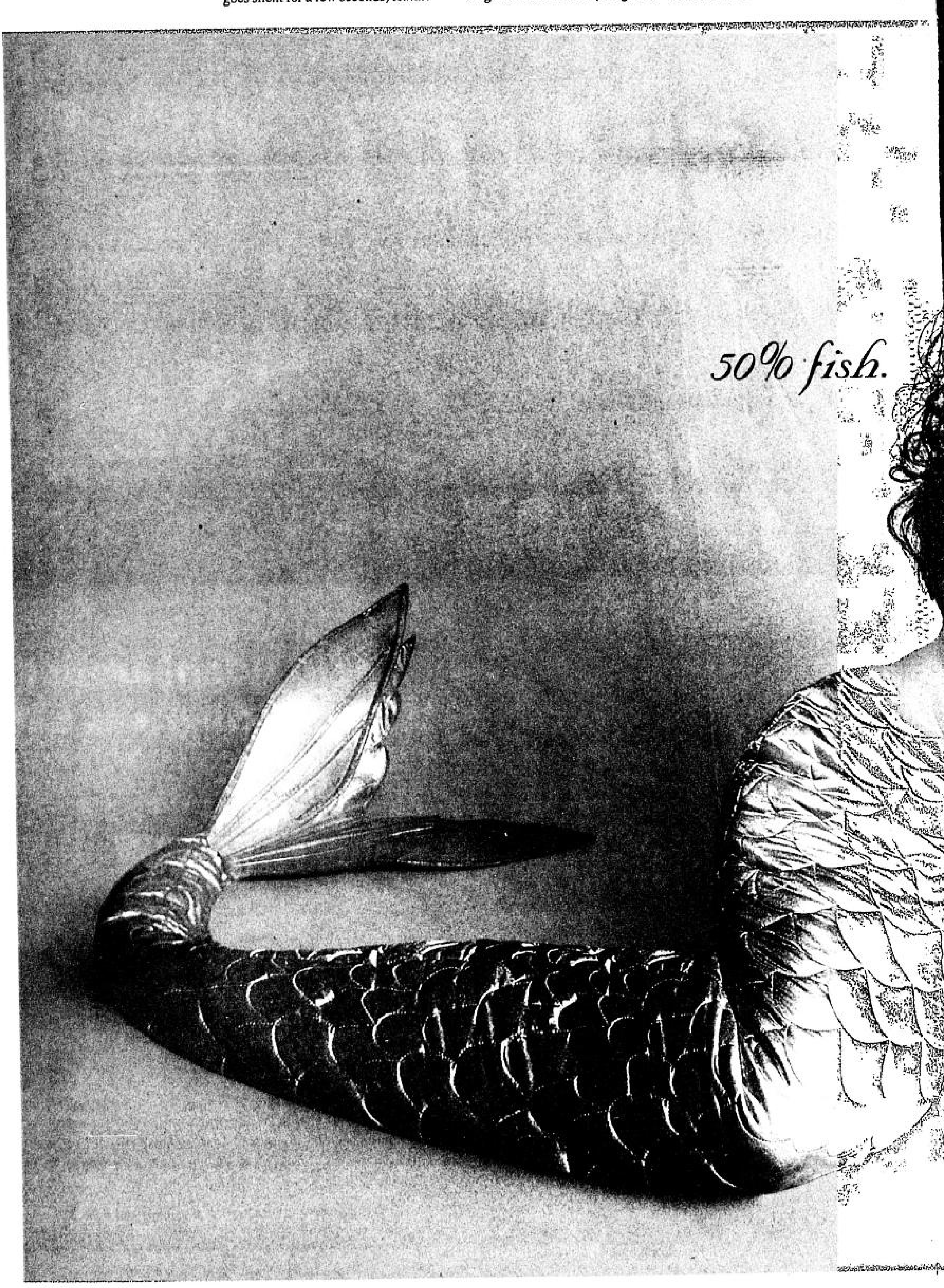
Calde: Nothing's bad with being in a band. Just stay in school and don't do drugs.

Miguel: Don't let people put you down. If we let people put us down, we wouldn't be here now, right?

Mong: Don't let people tell you what to do. If you want to cover April Boy and you're into that, then do it as long as you're having fun.

Miguel: Don't do it for the money. *Kasi wala naman eh.* (Laughter)

Check out Chico Science's album, "Revenge of the Giant Robot," under OctoArts EMI. Visit their website at www.circasystems.com/chicoscience



parent trapped

ms. merit answers

Q My daughter is in last year of high school and she does not know what to take in college. RR

The most critical factor in making college and the job more bearable in finding a proper match between a course and a student. Help your daughter select a course that matches both her personality and interest. Usually, a child who emulates the parents follows the parents footsteps.

If you have a family business and your child has interest in your business, make him work in all the departments as a junior during summer and see where his talent and interest lie.

If your child is inclined towards a particular course, help him plan his future around the course by charting out career possibilities with the course he chose. For example, a student who finish veterinary medicine can be a, a. veterinarian, b. a professor of veterinary medicine, c. an animal farm owner, d. a researcher. Encourage him to interview people from the career you charted out and ask him to visualize himself in that career. Does his lifestyle suit the profession that is related to the course he is taking?

Personally, I am more inclined to advise children to take up courses that will hone skills than course that is general with no specialization. They already spent 10-12 years of general knowledge and education in grade school and high school. Now, college is the next step prior to a lifetime career. And practicing what they learned makes the time and college money more worth the while.

Please send your questions to merit paper products, parent trapped, 88 Samson Road, cor MPL Road, Sucat, Muntinlupa City, or fax us at 02.842.1626.

Annoying songs we love to hum

By Jules Alcantara

They're our everyday nightmares, our musical Freudian slips: the songs we consciously hate but unconsciously sing

CHUVA CHU CHU!

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

YOU unconsciously hum them while you're in class. Or while you are stuck in traffic and restraining yourself from road rage. Others catch themselves humming right smack in the middle of an important meeting.

The alacrity with which your memory bank stores them only serves to confirm that indeed the speed of sound is a sound (excuse the intended pun) scientific concept and not just some scientific jargon that a bored scientist came up with.

It's those annoying songs. You may forget the exact date of your anniversary or the name of your second biggest crush of all time. But I bet my pinkie fingers you know at the very least the words in the refrain of any April "Boy" Regino chartbuster. By heart.

'Dayang Dayang'

I know, I know I'm supposed to appreciate our Asian heritage, Asian music, blah-blah and all that. But I swear, super *nakakainis talaga* to listen to "*dayang dayang, dayang dayang*" over and over again for like three minutes. Arggh! Just thinking about it already makes me dizzy. They should outlaw songs like this because at the very least, they can trigger motion sickness. Imagine what else people could end up doing if subjected to a 24-hour loop of this musical monstrosity? It's the worst song to listen to while you're drenched in sweat in the middle of a horrendous traffic inside a supposedly aircon bus which, by the way, absolutely defies all laws of gravity. Pass me the Bonamine. Now.

'MacArthur's Park'

Sorry, Ma, I know this is one of *the* songs of your generation, but my gosh, as hard as I try, I really can't bring myself to tolerate "'cause it took so long to bake it, and I know I'll never have that recipe again! Aahhgain!" Is this supposed to be a love song? Okay, granted, it has quite a hook. But this ditty is about cooking? Baking? Recipes? I'm sure Weird Al Yankovic was still in his diapers during the time this was a hit so it couldn't have been his fault! Blame it on the generation gap (and whatever else is there to blame like the widening hole in the ozone layer, Erap, etc.) but I just don't get the significance of the literary allusions being made. See, this song is the reason I can never and will never learn how to cook! Or bake those gingerbread cookies! I'm never gonna find a way to a man's heart, huhuhu!

'My Heart Will Go On'

Being equipped with an amazing vocal range is *not* an excuse to caterwaul like a banshee. I'm sure all the Celine Dion fans out there are ready to kill me now, but I swear this song grates on my already frayed nerves! I bet it would have taken less time to sink the Titanic if this song had been sang during the time the real Titanic was on its maiden voyage back in the '20s. To add insult to injury, a couple of "great and creative minds" have spawned a dance version of this song. Which leads me to ask, what were you on?

Grabe, you guys are so... *galeng*! *Sobra*!

'Crying Time'

Okay, honestly I admire Jolina for her talent, her entrepreneurial skills, her daring especially when it comes to her fashion sense. But every time I hear this song, my lachrymal glands go berserk. I get all riled up. I get red all over. I get really emotional. Anger is an emotion, right? *Kainis, ha*! Grover!

'Venga Boys' and '5, 6, 7, 8'

These songs are living proof that we are beginning to regress as a civilization. I mean, when you hear, "the venga boys are coming!" or "5, 6, 7, 8... it's driving me crazy!" you kind of want to just go up to the mountains and just listen to the birds humming and the snakes slithering around, right? These songs sound like they were sung by overaged cheerleaders on a terrible acid trip. Thank God, these people are one-hit wonders!

'Ring My Bell'

I can't even begin to describe how much this song annoys the hell out of me! "Ring my bell, ring my bell! My bell! Ring ring ring!" The tragedy of it all is that I know the words to the song. I can even sing this while sleeping. I even dreamt once that I starred in a music video of this, complete with huge (as in as big as mountains) church bells simultaneously clanging around. Uggh!

'Chuva Chuchu'

Another Jolina classic. No explanation needed. (All together now, let's all pray that our brain goes on automatic delete the next time we catch ourselves humming these no-brainer syllables or much worse, using then as substitutes when we can't find the exact words to say.)

'Aringkingking'

The worst of all. Is known to trigger severe attacks of migraine and insomnia. I have a friend who was not able to sleep for two whole days. She kept humming "aringkingking" the whole day and night. She cried. She begged to the heavens but to no avail. "Aringkingking" was on her mind. No amount of over-the-counter sleeping pills could ever match the potency of these irritating syllables. Piece of advice: keep a pair of industrial strength earplugs within your reach if you think you are in danger of hearing this ditty.

'Baby One More Time'

In the spirit of fairness, I will include Britney's biggest hit of all time, in deference to the wishes of our lead correspondent, Pam. But let me just declare on national publication that I am including this with total disagreement and a heaviness in my heart. Anyone worthy enough to make it on Madonna's T-shirt is good enough for me. Hit me, Britney, one more time!

P.S. By pure perverse serendipity, it was announced today (as I was finishing this article) that Jolina Magdangal has just launched a new album—containing dance remixes of her all-time hits. Be afraid. Be very afraid.

E-mail the author at jules26@gurlmail.com

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Jollibee

Friends treat her as a shrink who has the answer to everything

September Mahino & Carlos Garchitorena

DEAR Sep and Caloy,

I am on my second year, psychology major. I have a lot of friends and acquaintances who have the wrong notion about my course. These people think I have the answers to all their questions, even though they haven't asked me anything yet. They assume that I can read their minds, know what's bothering them and can provide an impromptu reply.

For instance, there's this friend who keeps saying that she is suicidal and that I am the only light in her dark world. I should be flattered, but I'm not. I feel helpless and worthless.

Yes, I know she has problems and so do I. How can I help her when all she's giving me are hints about her problem? One time she would start talking, then the next moment, she would leave the conversation hanging. I can't understand her. I can't understand these people around me. Sometimes, I really feel like exploding. I want to tell them to just keep their mouths shut and leave me alone. I don't have all the time in the world to deal with their unknown problems. I'm afraid I am on the verge of losing a great deal of friends if I don't stop feeling hostile about their kind of thinking. Am I not a good friend because I don't have the ears and the patience to offer them? Help me!

APRIL

It sucks when people bug you with their misconceptions about your course, and psychology is one of the most common victims of these. Maybe not in the Nostradamus-ical sense, but more on the "What kind of jobs will you be able to have after you graduate?" side. One friend went to another school because her parents kept nagging her about the probabilities of getting a lucrative job after college with a degree in psychology. But enough about her.

Sometimes you really feel like exploding. By all means, do! Do not fall into the dangerous pit of repression, or your inner turmoil could manifest itself psychosomatically. Or you would just explode one day and end up alienating yourself from your clueless friends. Once in a while, when you don't feel like being their personal shrink or even humoring them with a complex answer, tell them that you don't have all the answers to the world's problems, most especially theirs. But do it tactfully, okay? As for your suicidal friend, I seriously recommend that you tell her parents about her so they can get her professional help. Maybe she is suicidal, maybe she's not, but for her sake (and yours, as well), it wouldn't hurt to inform the elders.

And don't think that you're not a good friend. Believe me, with the concern you have about your friendships, you're one good girl to be around with.

SEP

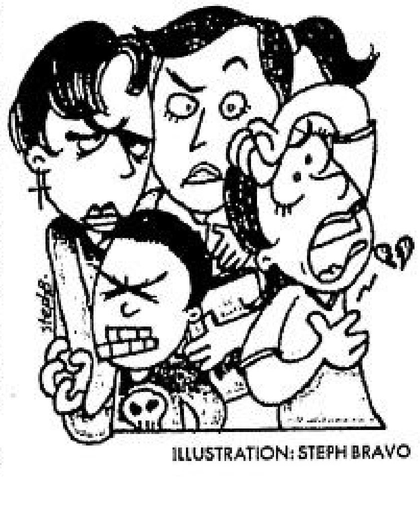
First, give them a disclaimer to your "shrink" credentials (very important). Next, rate the person as to how his or her life would be saved in the sinking of a ship. Proceed to blow them off. Attached is a list of ways to do so.

- I'm not being rude. You're just insignificant.
- I don't know what your problem is, but I'll bet it's hard to pronounce.
- You couldn't afford me anyway.
- Any connection between your reality and mine is purely coincidental.
- Do I look like a f------g people person?
- You sound reasonable... time to up my medication.
- What am I? Flypaper for freaks!?
- I can see your point, but I still think you're full of s--t.
- No, my powers can only be used for good.
- I'm out of my mind, but feel free to leave a message.

Remember, not everyone is graced with acceptance so be wary, but have fun at it. Laughter is still the best medicine. Give them a hug, and vow confidentiality because that's the kind of good friend that you are.

CALOY

E-mail Sep and Caloy at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph or send letters to PDI Lifestyle, Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City



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BATTLE OF THE RECORD BARS

Where's the best place to buy music?

By Ike Sulat

THE PLAIN answer used to be "Anywhere you can get it," but that was before the big music stores like Music One and Tower Records came and gave us more choices than our wallets could afford. Odyssey Records, probably the largest music chain here in the Philippines, adjusted to the big music store trend and has restructured some of its stores, renaming them Odyssey XL.

I would crucify myself if I just came out with my favorite store among those three that I have already mentioned, so I checked them out again and compared them against one another.

Top requirement in my quest for the best music store is a wide range of titles, along with the level of customer satisfaction that you can get. I tried to see if the customer service people knew their music, and if they would help me get the product I'm looking for. I decided to ask them if they knew about some fairly new releases like Martin Nievera's "Live with the Philharmonic" and the Smashing Pumpkins' "Machina: The Machines of God." After that, I went through some store basics and looked out for whatever the three stores had that made customers stick with them.

Which is the best music store? Read on and decide for yourself.

Odyssey XL
Number of branches: 3
Credit card payment: Yes
CD reservation: Yes
Telephone inquiry: 637-9551

Odyssey salespeople are quite notorious for being clueless about the music that they are selling, so it came as a surprise to me when a saleslady knew about the Smashing Pumpkins' latest album, and promptly guided me to where I hid the only copy of "Machina" that I found. Predictably, when I asked about Nievera's "Philharmonic" album, she also knew the chronological release of Nievera's other albums.

A plus for the store is the fact that the salespeople take care of your purchases; you don't have to fall in line to pay. An Odyssey saleslady claims that cassette purchases still outnumber CD purchases—something that reflects on what their market share is, in contrast to the claim of Tower and M1 that CDs rule their sales.

Odyssey's music selection has improved a lot from when you could see semi-rare CDs like The Pixies' "Doolittle" on their racks like drops of rain in the desert.

Edge: You'll never be lonely—salespeople seem to outnumber the customers.

Tower Records
Number of branches: 3
Credit card payment: Yes
CD reservation: Yes
Telephone inquiry: 752-8097

Just by looking at the space they have dedicated to rows and rows of music, it can be argued that Tower Records has the widest selection among the big three music stores. Proof of this is the fact that I get disappointed every time I go to Tower (especially in Makati) because there's just too much stuff I'd like to take home, but cannot, because of financial restrictions. The Tower salespeople are quite helpful and knowledgeable, although they can be sparse and scarce that you find yourself going to the cash register to get some help.

Of special notice are the literary selections that Tower has in their print section, most of them dealing with, of course, music. Their corporate-sponsored Pulp magazine is no slouch either, but it may be the lowest-priced product in this decadent Tower—it can come free with a music purchase or you can get it at P75.

Edge: Great music selection, complimentary Pulp magazine

Music One
Number of branches: 3
Credit card payment: Yes
CD reservation: Yes
Telephone inquiry: 840-3438/39

One of the best music stores in Manila, Music One in Makati boasts of two floors of music and video releases. The salespeople know their music, and their selections also make me want to ask for a raise from my employer, but I must confess that I go to Music One only after I can't find something from Tower.

The good thing is, I haven't been disappointed, and even managed to find a special-edition copy of "The Empire Strikes Back" soundtrack and Garbage's eponymous first album (which has a bonus CD) on two separate visits.

Music One probably knows that they need to step up somewhat, so they put an attractive loyalty scheme in place, where they reward frequent buyers with free stuff after reaching a minimum purchase.

Edge: Loyalty cards

Wolf caught shopping

WHILE going around Tower Records, I noticed the cropped mane of Wolfgang drummer Wolf Gemora, his attention on some rock CDs. After I reintroduced myself to him (I interviewed him in 1999 for The Web magazine), I asked him about his music-store preferences. He says that he only frequents Music One and Tower Records for his music purchases, but is partial to Tower. It was therefore both funny and ironic when he told me that he saw a copy of "No Angel" by Dido (the girl who sings in Eminem's "Stan") in M1, but couldn't find one in Tower, just when he was ready to buy it. On that day, incidentally, Wolfgang's "Acoustica" was similarly out of stock in Tower.

Ike Sulat

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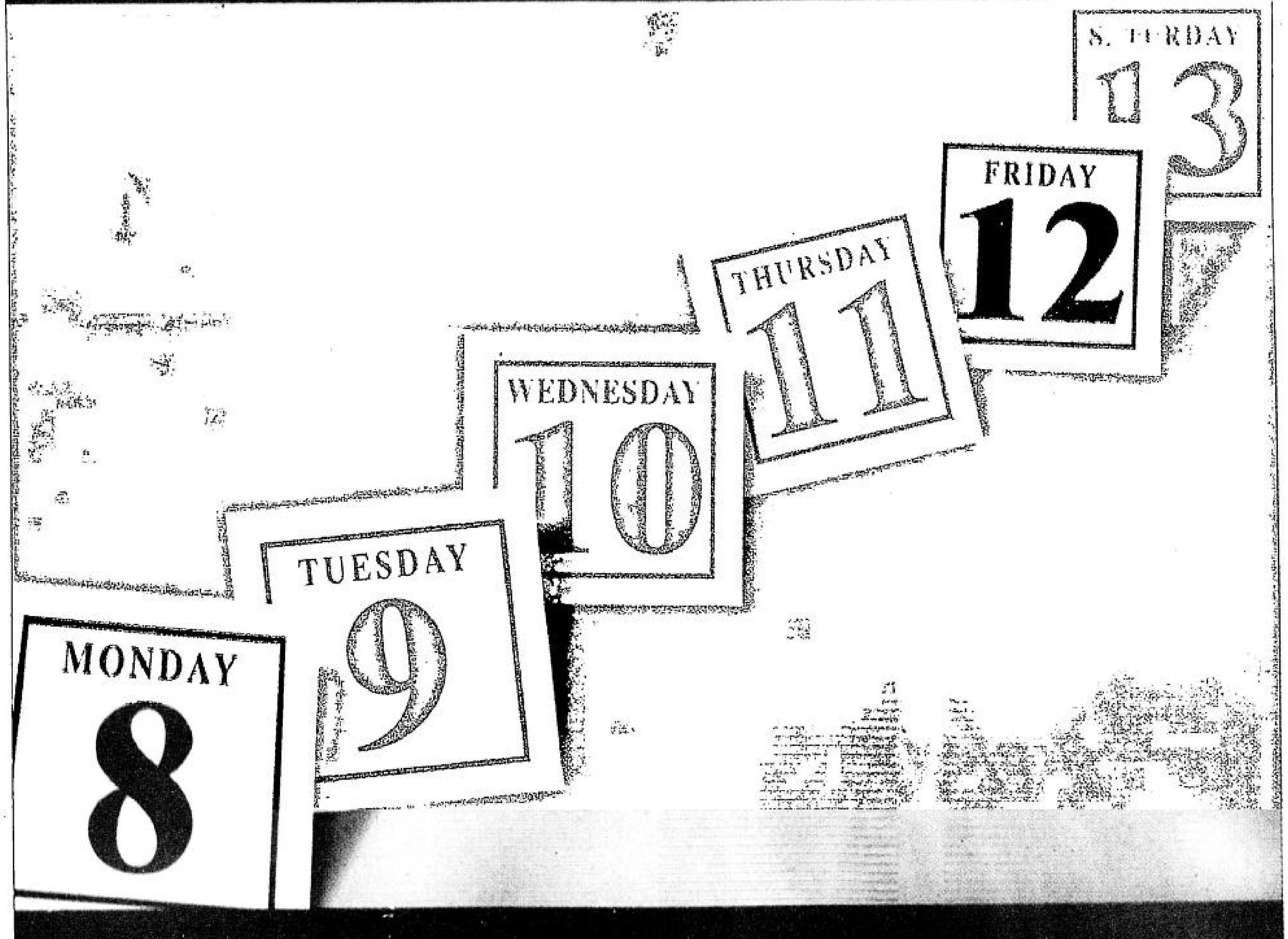

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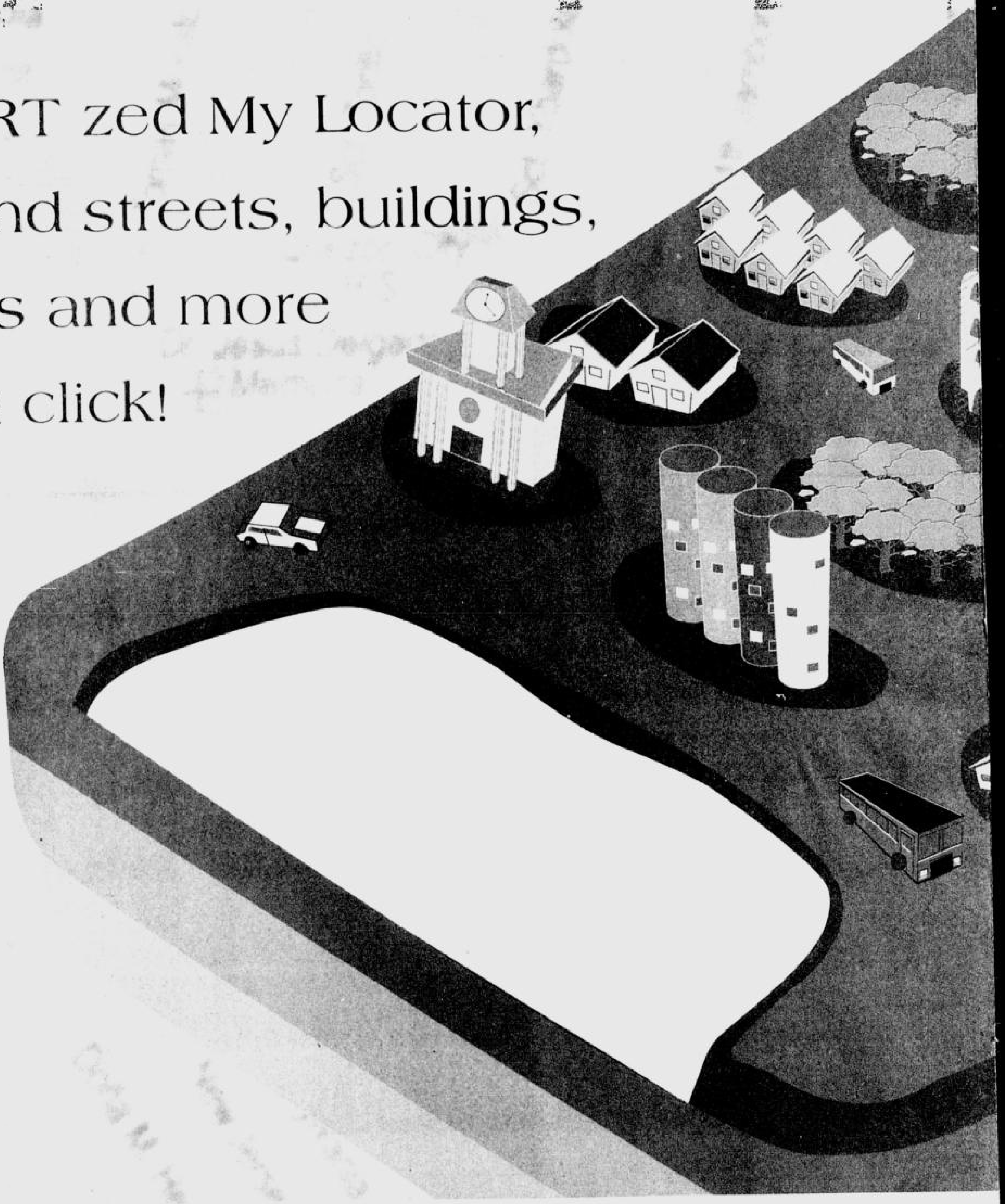

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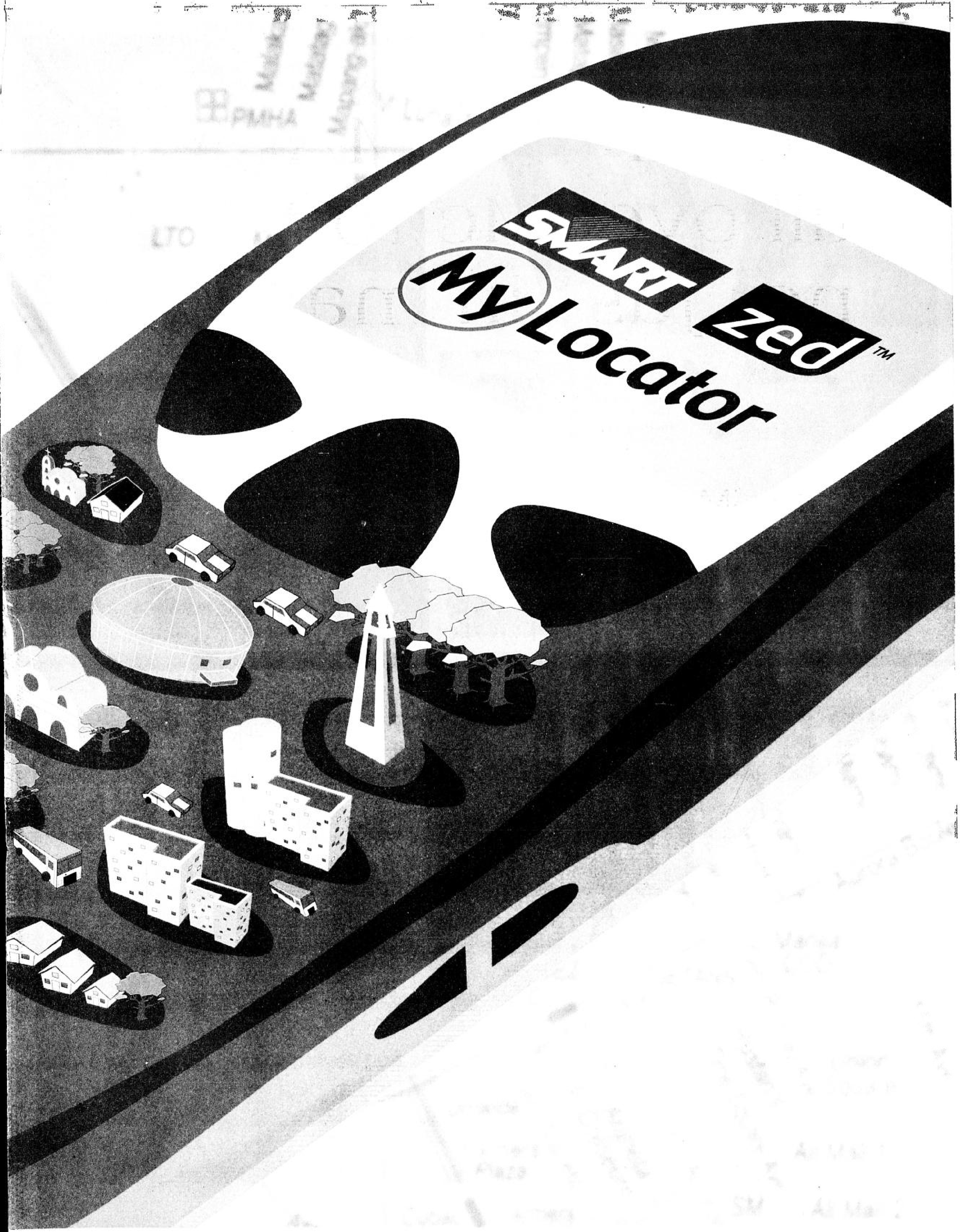

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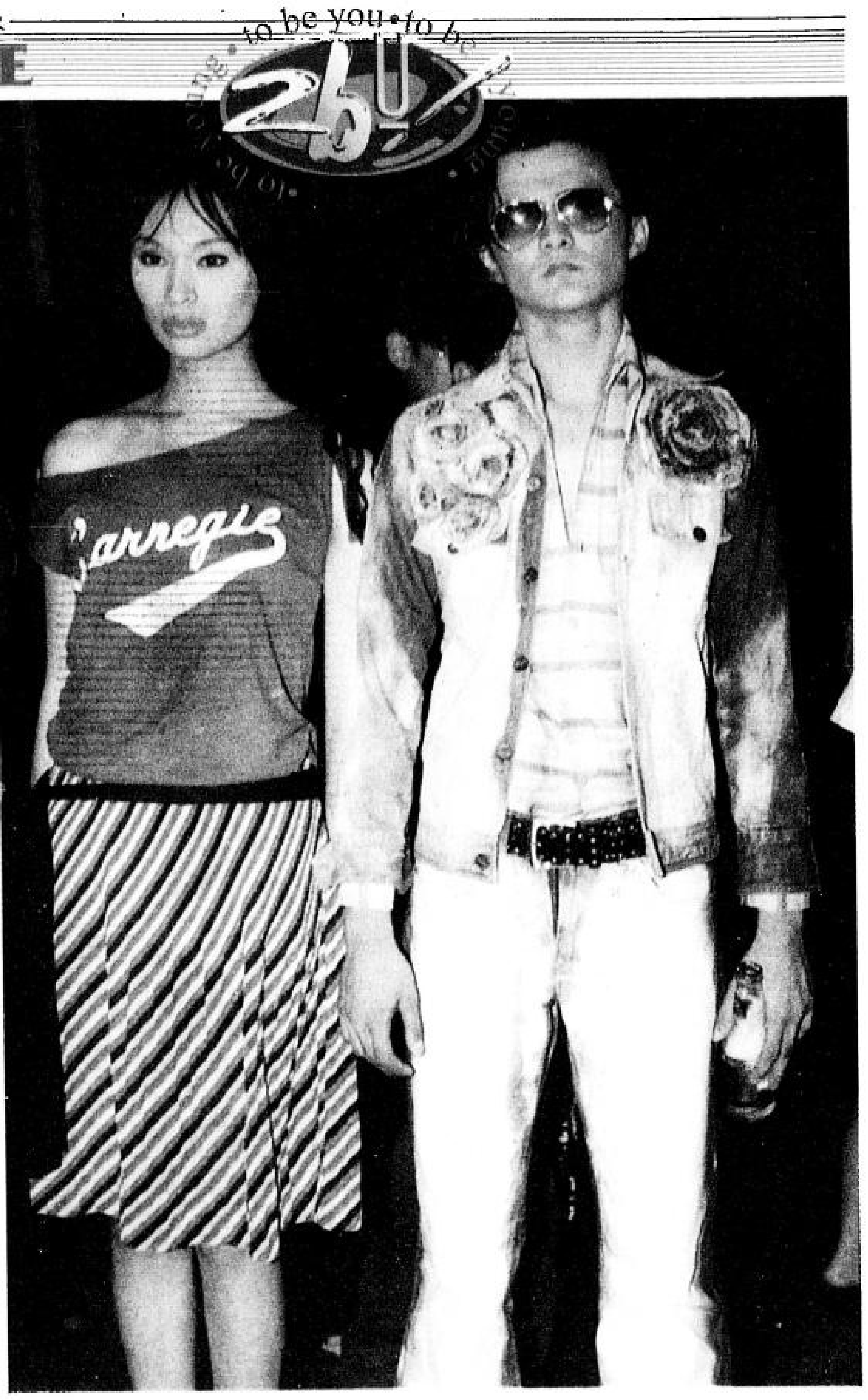
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